

2020-2023

IMPACT REPORT

**GREAT
FUTURES
START
HERE.**

75 Years of Service & Impact



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF LOWER BERGEN COUNTY

1949 - 2024



Dear Supporters and Friends,

For us at Boys & Girls Clubs of Lower Bergen County, 2024 marks both our 75th year of service, as well as the culmination of several extraordinarily challenging years for our world. This report serves as a reflection of our journey from 2020 to 2023, highlighting our resilience in action and our impact on Southern Bergen County families.

The pandemic exacerbated existing issues like food insecurity, learning loss, and mental health challenges among our communities' children and teens. With your support, we swiftly adapted to keep our doors open and our programs accessible. As you read through this report, I invite you to explore the ways in which we have emerged stronger from this period - launching new programs, expanding services, and investing in staff development.

Our programs are more than just a place for kids and teens to spend time when school is out. We are a hub of experience and our programs are designed with the understanding that every child has unique talents, challenges, and dreams.

It is our mission to support children and teens by offering guidance, resources, and encouragement every step of the way. Whether it is nurturing their love for science, helping them discover a new sport, or guiding them through tough times, our expertise lies in fostering each child's potential.

Recognizing the growing academic and mental health needs of young people, our team has been proactive in integrating targeted initiatives to help address the reverberating impacts of the pandemic. With funding priorities shifting, your support is essential to continuing these vital services.

Looking forward, I am excited for continued expansion of services and reaching even more families. I am honored to lead such an incredible organization and am humbled by the dedication and hard work of our staff, volunteers, and supporters. Your generosity enables us to offer truly transformative programs. Together, we are not just preparing youth for a successful future; we're helping them create it.

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Licata, MPA
Chief Executive Officer



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Our Mission

To enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

When School's Out, Clubs Are In

Boys & Girls Clubs of Lower Bergen County provide a safe place to play, grow and learn while empowering youth to excel in school, become good citizens and lead healthy, productive lives.

Clubhouses

Our clubhouses are safe havens for young minds to play, discover, learn, and flourish.

Lodi Clubhouse

460 Passaic Avenue
Lodi, NJ 07644

Hackensack Clubhouse

170B Sussex Street
Hackensack, NJ 07601

School-based Programs

We are honored to partner with local school districts to provide impactful programs to students and their families in familiar environments.

Lodi Public School District

Lodi's Enrichment Afterschool Program (L.E.A.P.) located at Thomas Jefferson Middle School

Hackensack Public School District

Comet Academic Afterschool Partnership (C.A.A.P.) located at Hackensack Middle School

Afterschool Comet Enrichment Program (A.C.E.) located at:

- Fairmount Elementary School
- Fanny Meyer Hillers Elementary School
- Jackson Ave Elementary School
- Nellie K. Parker School

South Bergen Jointure Commission Special Education Public School District

BGC@SBJC program located at the Maywood Campus School

Wallington Public School District

Wallington Afterschool Zone for Enrichment (W.A.Z.E.) program located at Wallington Junior/Senior High School



In 2023 we earned the Boys & Girls Clubs of America Hero for Youth award for our dedicated advocacy efforts, placing us within the top 40% of all Clubs for advocacy engagement.

Platinum
Transparency
2023

Candid.

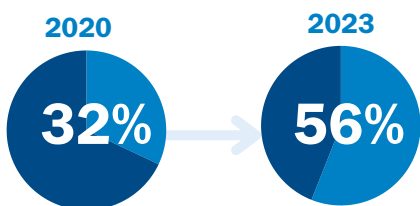
Boys & Girls Clubs of Lower Bergen County achieved the Platinum Transparency Rating on Candid, the highest rating by the world's largest source on non-profit organizations. This puts us in the top 0.1% of U.S. charities in terms of transparency with the public.

Meeting Needs

Relieving Financial Burdens

We understand the pressures that financial constraints can place on a family.

From 2020 to 2023 the number of our Club members living in **low-income** households drastically increased:



We're proud to offer a wide range of free and low-cost programs designed to empower kids and support families.

Access to technology is not just a luxury, it's a necessity.

Our commitment to bridging the digital divide can be seen across all our Clubs - 42% of our population struggles to access WiFi outside of our programs.



Overcoming Language Barriers

52% of students who attend our service schools do not speak English at home - most speak Spanish.

Our amazing bilingual staff help us build positive relationships with all families, regardless of primary language.

Trauma-Informed Care

Understanding trauma-informed practice is key to creating a safe and supportive environment for young people. Our work involves recognizing the impact of trauma, responding with empathy and understanding, and fostering resilience through positive relationships and empowerment.



A few months ago, I walked into the club after a close friend of mine passed. Laura was there for me. She has inspired me to not give up, and to push through, even on my hardest days. Laura encouraged me and reminded me that things always get better. I would not be where I am without Laura.

- Marcella, Boys & Girls Clubs of Lower Bergen County Youth of the Year 2022

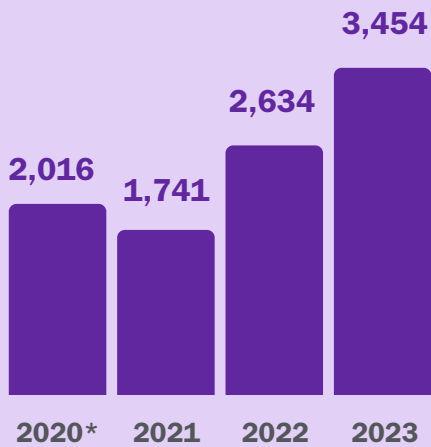
Serving Our Communities

Together, we can make a lasting impact for all

Our team is committed to meeting the evolving needs of our families. We have greatly increased our capacity to serve more youth and families since 2020, but more work is yet to be done.

Expanding Our Reach

In 2023 we engaged a record number of young people in programs or outreach



*Includes pre-pandemic engagement data

Fighting Food Insecurity

We know that proper nutrition is key to healthy development. Thanks to our generous donors, partners like Community Food Bank of NJ, and dedicated volunteers, we provide more free **meals** and **snacks** every year.



Keystone Club

Fostering a Culture of Giving Back

Our Keystone Club provides teen members with community service opportunities to give back to the community that supports them, empowering them to strengthen the bonds that connect us all.

Every year our Keystone Club teens help facilitate our holiday food distribution for needy families living in Bergen County.



Our Programs

Evidence-Based Programming

Our tested, proven and nationally recognized programs are more than just activities; they're pathways to bright futures.

We ignite potential at every age - from preschool to high school - through our diverse range of programs designed to inspire, educate, and support young minds on their journey to a bright future. Our wide selection of services is created to meet the developmental needs of every child, fostering positive outcomes that nurture the "whole child".

Engage. Inspire. Empower.



My favorite activity was STEM, I really liked when we used the 3D pen and (when we) made crystals.

- Club member from
Hackensack Middle School

Empowering all abilities for a brighter future together

We proudly offer inclusive services to support every child's unique learning and engagement needs.

Our unique partnership with the South Bergen Jointure Commission Special Education District unlocks opportunities for kids like Jayden.

Prior to discovering this program, Jayden's mother had a hard time finding after-school care for her son, whose autism made it important to choose the right program.

Since joining our program, Jayden's mother has seen him blossom -

"He plays with other kids. He learned how to ride a bike for the first time. I am completely satisfied. They are so good with him."



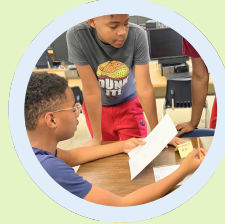
Key Program Areas



Education

Guiding members toward academic achievement & timely graduation

Tutoring, High-yield & Hands-on Learning, Homework Help, Literacy, Educational Field Trips



Character & Leadership

Empowering youth to graduate with purpose & direction

Leadership, Community Service, Good Character & Responsibility, Girls & Boys Groups, Health & Self-Esteem, Racial Equity, Diversity & Inclusion, Culture & Identity



STEM

Unlocking a world of possibilities & shaping future careers

Computer Science, Digital Literacy, Coding, Cybersecurity, Robotics, Digital Media Production, Women in STEM Career Exploration, Financial Literacy



Health & Wellness

Encouraging healthy choices to set a foundation for a brighter future

Mentoring, Social Emotional Learning, Therapy & Case Management, Anti-Bullying, Health Promotion, Drug, Alcohol & Pregnancy Prevention, Relationships, Nutrition, Safe Driving



The Arts

Offering a gateway for creativity & a canvas for self-expression

Songwriting, Visual & Digital Arts, Instruments, Theater, Choir, National Arts Competitions



Sports & Recreation

Harnessing the power of play

Basketball Leagues, Active Recreation, Swimming, Good Sportsmanship



Workforce Readiness

Empowering youth to graduate with purpose & direction

Career Exploration, Employability Skill-Building, College & Trade School Readiness, Work Experience Opportunities



Family Engagement

Inspiring families to grow together

Community Events, Emotional Wellness Resources, Healthy Lifestyles Activities, Engagement & Family Connections

2023

Our Best Year Yet

3,454 youth were engaged in our programs and outreach events

94% of our Club members are on grade level for their age & expect to graduate high school

95% of our 6th-8th grade members say people at the Club accept them for who they are

92% of our Club teens feel that their ideas count at the Club and that they help the Club improve



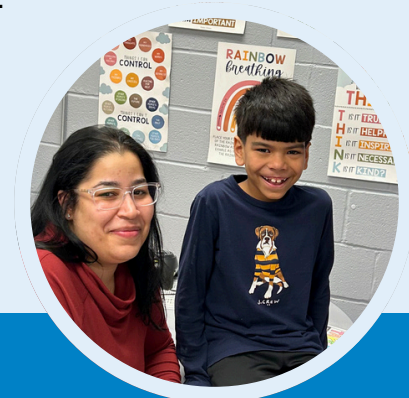
Inspired Youth Spotlight

When 7-year-old Liam first joined our program two years ago, his struggles with regulating his emotions led to disruptions in school and Club programs. Instances of fighting left him isolated from his peers, and his lack of engagement in program activities raised concerns.

Recognizing the urgency of the situation, our social work team sprang into action. Liam and his family were provided with comprehensive support services, including counseling, therapeutic group sessions, social emotional learning lessons, and mentorship with a compassionate adult. Our team also collaborated with Liam's family, empowering them to enhance their advocacy skills.

As a result of their efforts, Liam was successfully placed in a school that is equipped to support his academic and emotional growth.

With these supports Liam is thriving, has continued to make new friends, and shares his enthusiasm for program activities. In January 2024 Liam's dedication and positive influence were recognized as he was named Student of the Month within his program group, a moment celebrated with immense pride by our entire team.



MILESTONES

2020 and Beyond

Incorporated in 1949, Boys & Girls Clubs of Lower Bergen County has evolved from a humble organization operating out of our founder's wood paneled station wagon to a cornerstone of southern Bergen County with two Clubhouses and eight additional school sites.

2020-2023 has been some of our most impactful - and challenging - years yet, marked by key milestones that brought us closer to assuring success is within reach of every young person in the communities we serve.

Embracing Change

- A few months after launching our LEAP program at Thomas Jefferson Middle School in Lodi, the global COVID19 pandemic hits
- We open 2 Remote Learning Centers while still keeping our Clubhouse doors open
- In response to growing food insecurity, we expand our food distribution programs
- Our programs address barriers to remote learning by providing families with technology and learning/activity supplies

2020



2021

Growth & Resilience

- Launch of the COMET Academic Afterschool Partnership program at Hackensack Middle School
- Flooding by Hurricane Ida impacts our Lodi Clubhouse, later surveyed by New Jersey Governor Murphy. Our previous flood mitigation efforts save us millions in damages and the Clubhouse is back up and running in only three weeks

2022

Collaboration & Transformation

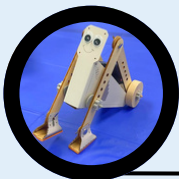
- Launch of the middle school WAZE program at Wallington Junior/Senior High School
- Launch of our afterschool program in partnership with South Bergen Jointure Commission Special Needs School District, the first of its kind in Maywood, NJ
- A licensed social worker joins the team and starts our trauma-informed care initiative



2023

Innovation & Impact

- Launch of the ACE Program in all four Hackensack elementary schools
- Our LEAP Program Director is honored by the National After School Association and is recognized by the Borough of Lodi Mayor and Council
- Renewed commitment to equitable, informed service by investing in Racial Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Anti-Bullying, and Mental Health resources



2024

Empowering the Future

- Celebrating 75 years of service and impact with our generous supporters over many special events throughout the year!

INCRECIBLE YOUTH OUTCOMES

Boys & Girls Clubs use the The National Youth Outcomes Initiative to measure the impact of Clubs based on a common set of research-informed indicators. Results give us data-driven insights into our Club members' experience and enable us to improve performance to make an even greater impact. 2023 data shows our Club's success in comparison with all of the Boys & Girls Clubs in the state and across the nation.

Our Club Members are...

SAFE

94%

feel safe from harm when at the Club

EMPOWERED

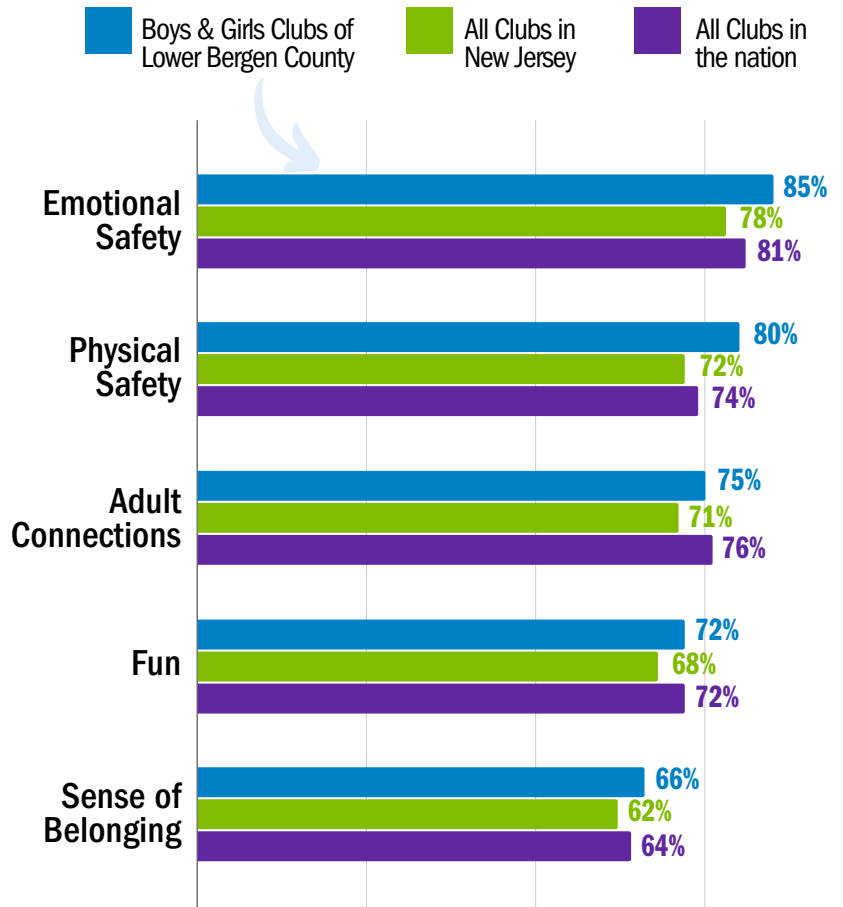
93%

have tried to help when they see others in need

SUPPORTED

94%

feel that adults in the Club care about them



My son had so much fun this summer and being a single parent I can't thank you guys, the whole staff, enough for taking care of him.

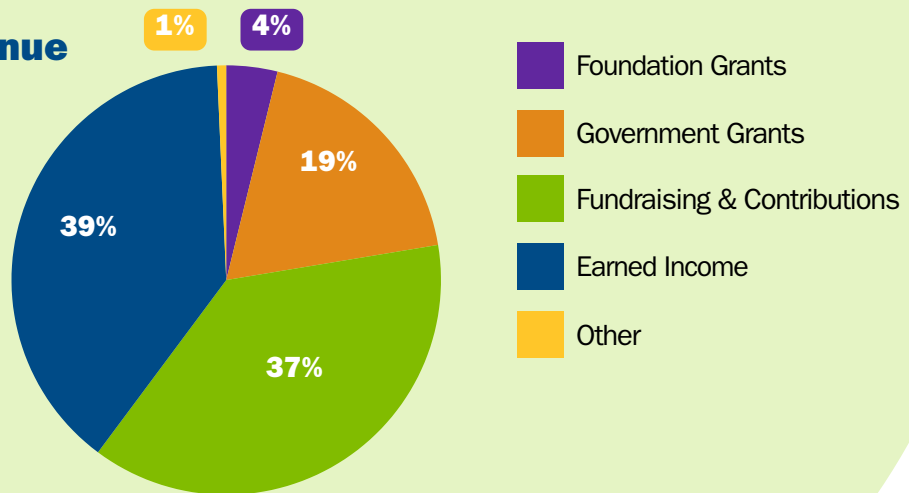
- Lodi Clubhouse Parent

The staff is phenomenal, provided a great overall experience and exhibit a high level of care and professionalism. My children enjoyed the swimming, arts & crafts, cooking and the daily activities the staff provided within the facility. They are looking forward to next year.

- Hackensack Clubhouse Parent

Financials & Staffing

2023 Revenue



The economic impact of our work is far-reaching.

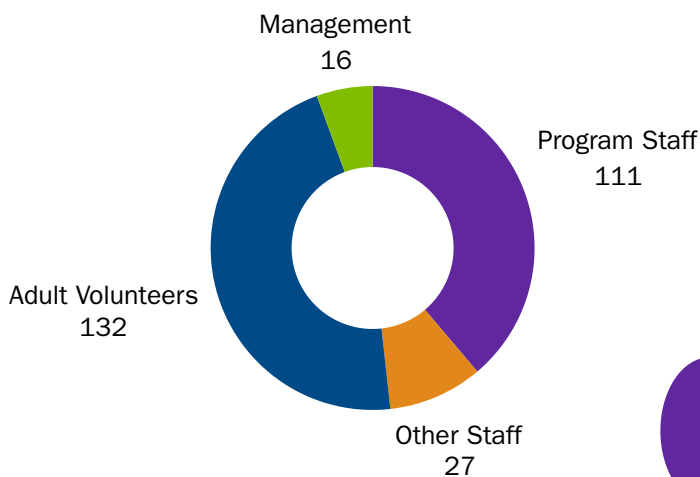
The safe environment that our programs provide gives families the ability to maintain work schedules and pursue education beyond the hours of a typical school day.

Our work drastically limits childcare costs, reduces negative teen behaviors, and encourages kids to become healthy and productive adults who contribute to their community through meaningful careers.

“The hours are a lifesaver for me due to my work schedule.”

- Lodi Clubhouse Parent

Our Team



93% of our Club members feel that adults at the Clubs encourage them to do their best

THANK YOU

The team at Boys & Girls Clubs of Lower Bergen County thanks you for supporting the futures of the children and teens in our communities.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Joseph J. Licata, Chief Executive Officer
James Castillo, Chief Operating Officer
Kim Cattafi, Finance Director
Melissa Mckinney, Resource Development & Marketing Manager
Dominique Escarpeta, Human Resources & Finance Specialist

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We thank our Board of Directors for their unwavering dedication and volunteerism

Mike Williams, President
Stephen Lolocono, 1st Vice President
Michael Tancorra, 2nd Vice President
Mark Bordick, Treasurer
Ann Marie Saccaro, Secretary
Maritza Aleman
Juan Alvarado
Annekee Brahver-Keely
Dr. Balpreet Grewal-Virk
Jon Hendl
Tim Hoffman
Stacy B. Kornhauser
Melissa Ledesma
Jennifer Mejia
Russ Patane



Board President
Mike Williams

Visit us at

BGCLBERGEN.ORG

to learn how you can help support our work today!

Our supporters make it possible for Boys & Girls Clubs of Lower Bergen County to offer programming to families regardless of their financial constraints.



National research has shown that every dollar invested in Boys & Girls Clubs returns \$9.60 in economic benefits back to the community.

Please help us support our communities by attending special events or support our mission by donating.

Our Valued Partners

Honoring those who stand with us, shaping a brighter future for our youth.

School Districts

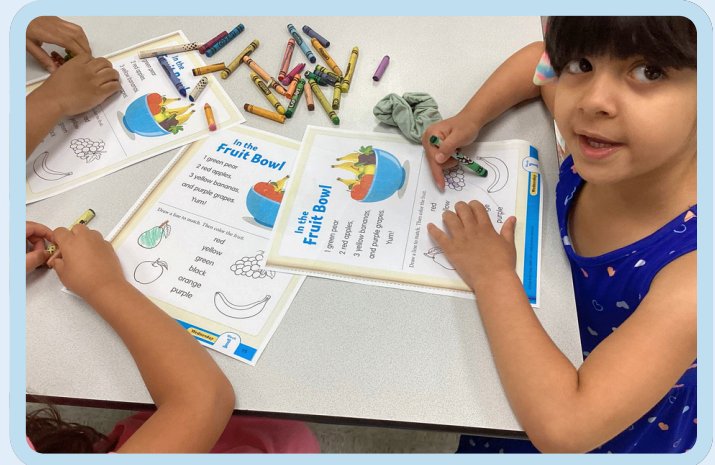
- Hackensack Public School District
- Lodi Public School District
- South Bergen Jointure Commission Special Education Public School District
- Wallington Public School District

Community Partners

- Borough of Lodi
- City of Hackensack
- County of Bergen
- Hackensack Housing Authority

Project & Funding Partners

- Amazon
- Bergen County Division of Community Development
- The Bonanno Family
- Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey
- Boys & Girls Clubs of America
- Charities Aid Foundation of America
- Community Food Bank of New Jersey
- Dick's Sporting Goods Foundation
- Elan Catering & Events
- Equitable Foundation
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- The Felician School For Exceptional Children
- Felician University
- Foundation at Cross River
- The Gillis Organization
- Greater Bergen Association of Realtors/Realtors Care Foundation
- Hackensack Meridian Health
- Hackensack Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Hackensack University Medical Center
- Kearny Bank Foundation
- Lakeland Bank
- Lamb Insurance Services
- Lodi Chamber of Commerce
- Lodi Education Association
- Lodi Moose Lodge #1971
- Lodi Old-Timers Little League
- Montclair State University
- Neglia Group
- Neiman Marcus
- New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
- New Jersey Department of Education
- New Jersey Economic Development Authority
- New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness
- New Jersey Red Wave Swim Team
- New Jersey Swimming Group
- Paramus Catholic High School
- Patti Family
- Pro Bono Partnership
- PSE & G
- Ramapo College
- Rotary Club of Hackensack
- ShopRite Inserra Supermarkets
- Spencer Savings Bank
- Stryker
- TD Bank Charitable Foundation
- Unilever
- Zog Sports



GREAT FUTURES START **HERE.**



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF LODI**



GREAT FUTURES START **HERE.**



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF HACKENSACK**



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF LOWER BERGEN COUNTY
**mental health
& wellness team**



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