

# Our Mission

Since 1889, the Boys & Girls Club of Worcester has been a leader throughout Central Massachusetts in providing youth development opportunities for the city's most disadvantaged children and teens. Our Mission is to help youth, especially those who need us most, develop the qualities needed to become responsible citizens and community leaders, through caring professional staff who forge relationships with our youth members and influence their ability to succeed in life.



## Contact Us

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## Food Pantry- \$350,000

**Gift Impact:** Our community food pantry provides assistance to 250 families annually (250 weekly during the COVID-19 Pandemic). Our offerings include fresh fruit, canned goods, staple items such as bread, flour, and sugar, and household cleaning supplies.

Our food pantry opened in 2016 in partnership with Fallon Health. What began as a way to ensure our Club kids were provided proper nutrition during non-Club hours, has evolved into a consistent source of support for our community. In addition to dinners in Kid's Café during the week, our families come to "shop" the food pantry for meals during the weekend. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we provided "grab and go" meals for all kids—members or not—and local families. We have also partnered with 2Gether We Eat, a local nonprofit, to install a hydroponic garden at our Club so our kids can learn to grow their own vegetables.

We partner with local organizations such as the Worcester County Food Bank and Friendly House, and we receive in-kind donations throughout the year from organizations and individuals, that help stock our shelves—however, a named gift to the food pantry will expand our outreach and help provide the resources necessary to help ensure no kids or families go hungry.



# Named Gift Opportunities



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## Gymnasium- \$1.5 million



**Gift Impact:** The centerpiece of our Healthy Habits core area, the gym, sees 400+ kids per day. With sports, dance, and games, the gym is where we keep our kids healthy.

The gym has hardwood floors, bleachers, and 6 basketball hoops. To combat the 17% youth

obesity rate, our kids are active at least 60 minutes per day. Kids of all ages participate in our basketball leagues, athletic teams and other activities for the \$25/year membership fee. Dance recitals, fashion shows and craft fairs are also held in the gym; a named gift would feature prominently in one of our most visible areas.

## Arts Suite- \$1 million

**Gift Impact:** All kids need opportunities to express themselves positively, and arts programs are out of the financial reach for most of our Club youth. Nearly two-thirds of our members participate in at least one arts program every year.

Public schools are cutting arts programs. Our music lessons, drama club, dance team and digital arts courses are very popular: A major gift would guarantee that our kids always have a place to use their creativity.



## Kid's Café- \$1 million

**Gift Impact:** Our free meal program combats hunger. In Worcester, 1 in 4 kids goes to bed hungry – with 80% of them in poverty, the statistic for Club kids would be far higher. We serve dinner to 300 kids every weekday on average, with free lunch and snacks all summer.

Our kids live in barren foodscapes, with little access to fresh food. Eating healthy is expensive, and our Club families often rely on cheap-but-filling fast food. Kids Café feeds kids and introduces them to table manners, hygiene, and nutrition education. We employ several Club teens, and provide them with free ServSafe certification, a valuable resume-boost. Music lessons, dance team practice, staff meetings, and many other activities take place in Kids Café. A major gift to Kids Café would be highly visible, as well as having lasting impact on our kids' health and future prospects.



## Outdoor Patio- \$500,000

**Gift Impact:** The patio is a gathering place, a viewing area, and a major program space during the warmer months. Club members use it many times a year for cookouts, Club-wide performances and outdoor crafts.

The patio overlooks the Clark University intramural athletic field, which is open to our Club several days per week, and where most of our outdoor activities take place.



## Outdoor Athletic Court and Playground- \$350,000

**Gift Impact:** Our outdoor court and playground have long provided Club kids with their only safe place to play outside as most of them live in neighborhoods where that option is often too dangerous. We strive to provide our members with ample outdoor opportunities, and our athletic court and playground help us do just that.

Designed for basketball, street hockey, and playground games, the fenced-in basketball court has also hosted animal meet-and-greets, hula hoop competitions, and karaoke contests. A named gift would protect one of our most beloved areas for all our kids.



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