

TODAY'S HEROES, TOMORROW'S LEADERS

136TH
ANNUAL MEETING



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF WORCESTER

COMMUNITY EVENT

Performance by InDaZone

Board of Directors Annual Meeting

State of the Club, Liz Hamilton, CEO

Recognition of our Youth of the Months

High School Graduation Celebration

College Scholarship Distribution

END OF COMMUNITY EVENT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECEPTION

Distribution of Awards

Alumni Hall of Fame- *Garreth Lynch, CEO of Boys & Girls Club of Plymouth*

Alumni Hall of Fame- *Lorimar Mateo Garcia, Social Worker at Department of
Transitional Assistance*

Soul of Service award- *Hanover Insurance*

Alumni Hall of Fame- *Laura Rodriguez, Cosmetology Educator*

Alumni Hall of Fame- *Ricardo (Ricky) Rodriguez, Residential Counselor*

Women's Leadership Speaking Up Award- *Julie Davenport, Consigli Construction*

Women's Leadership Amplify Award- *Melanie Bonsu, Saint-Gobain*

Alumni Hall of Fame- *Anthony (Tony) Orama, Basketball Coach*

Alumni Hall of Fame- *Bob Donahue (posthumously), Civil Engineer*

Francis Pisegna Volunteer Award – *Matt Foster, WPI*

Foundation for the Future award- *Festival of Trees Committee*

ALUMNI HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



GARRETH LYNCH

At age ten, Garreth Lynch, PhD, rode the #22 bus downtown to the Lincoln Square Clubhouse—his favorite place in Worcester. There, among kids from different backgrounds, he learned vital social skills and sparked a lifelong passion for public speaking and leadership.

The eldest of five, Garreth's leadership skills were shaped both at home and at "the Club." After graduating from Assumption Prep, he earned degrees from Westfield State College (BA), Suffolk University (MPA), and SUNY Albany (PhD in Organizational Behavior and Theory)—a path of learning he traces back to Lincoln Square.

While at Westfield State, Garreth settled in Westfield, married Cheryl (his wife of 59 years), raised two daughters, taught English at Westfield High, served as State Representative, and later, as mayor. In 1969, he co-founded the Westfield Boys Club, inspired by his Worcester roots.

Today, he is Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Club of Plymouth, continuing to give back—another lasting lesson from Lincoln Square.



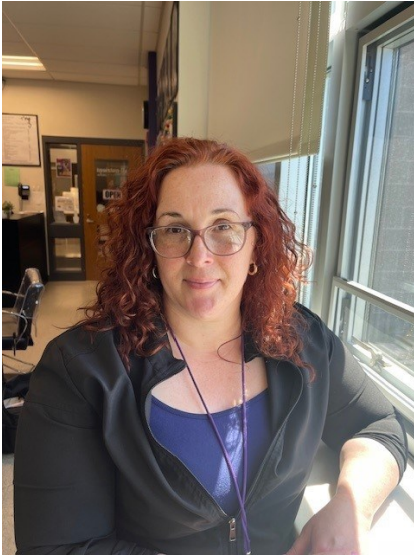
LORIMAR MATEO GARCIA

Lorimar Mateo Garcia, LCSW, is a Domestic Violence Specialist with the Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance, where she advocates for survivors through trauma-informed care and access to vital resources.

Born in Puerto Rico and raised in Worcester, she's deeply rooted in the community—from her days as a student leader and MVP basketball player at Burncoat High, to her continued grassroots involvement. A graduate of Anna Maria College (B.S. in Criminal Justice) and Westfield State University (MSW), Lorimar also holds a theological diploma from Theological Institute of Bethsaida, crediting her faith—and the influence of her late grandmother—for guiding her life and work. She has partnered with local leaders on community-building initiatives and mentored youth as a basketball coach with Trinity Lutheran's Youth League.

Currently, she serves on the Advisory Council for Rise Above, supporting children in foster care. Through every role, Lorimar leads with empathy, authenticity, and a deep commitment to justice and healing.

ALUMNI HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



LAURA RODRIGUEZ

Laura is a passionate educator and a talented hairstylist who credits much of her personal and professional growth to the time she had at the Boys and Girls Club. Growing up, she eagerly spent countless hours at the club, forming lasting friendships and staying engaged in creative pursuits that kept her out of trouble. It was there that she discovered a love for art, which led her to become the club's art teacher, inspiring the next generation of club kids by sharing her passion and creativity.

After enrolling in cosmetology school, Laura thrived as a hairstylist for over 20 years, honing her craft and developing a successful career in the beauty industry. However, the call to teach was never far away. With a renewed focus, she pursued a license in education, transitioning to a role as a vocational cosmetology teacher. For over a decade, Laura has dedicated her career to shaping aspiring cosmetologists, sharing not only her expertise but also the invaluable lessons learned from her years at the Boys and Girls Club. With a deep belief in the power of mentorship, she is committed to empowering the next generation and fostering creativity in every student she encounters.



RICARDO "RICKY" RODRIGUEZ

Rickey grew up as one of six children in Great Brook Valley, raised by a mother without a high school diploma and a father who struggled with addiction and incarceration. Labeled early on as a troubled student with a learning disability, Rickey found a safe haven at the Boys and Girls Club—a place where kids could just be kids, free of judgment and worry. Thanks to the Club, which even provided transportation, Rickey discovered a sense of belonging and support that still resonates with him today—he still has his membership card from 1991.

With encouragement from mentors like his cousin Carlos Garcia, Rickey began giving back as a peer leader with the Henry Lee Willis Community Center. He then became a tobacco youth advisor with the Great Brook Valley Health Center, supervised the Graffiti Removal Program in the neighborhood, and created the Scattered Site Summer Program through the Worcester Housing Authority to provide daily recreation for underserved youth.

While supporting his community, Rickey pursued higher education—earning an associate degree from Quinsigamond Community College and a bachelor's in Sociology from UMass Amherst with a concentration in social services. His career has included roles as a social worker for at-risk foster children, clinician and team lead at Youth Net, social service coordinator for the elderly and disabled, therapeutic mentor, and community support worker.

Today, Rickey works as a Residential Council II for Community Healthlink through UMass Memorial, helping adults with dual diagnoses live independently. Throughout it all, he continues to refer kids to the Boys and Girls Club and proudly carries the identity of a "Club kid"—a reminder of where it all began.

ALUMNI HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

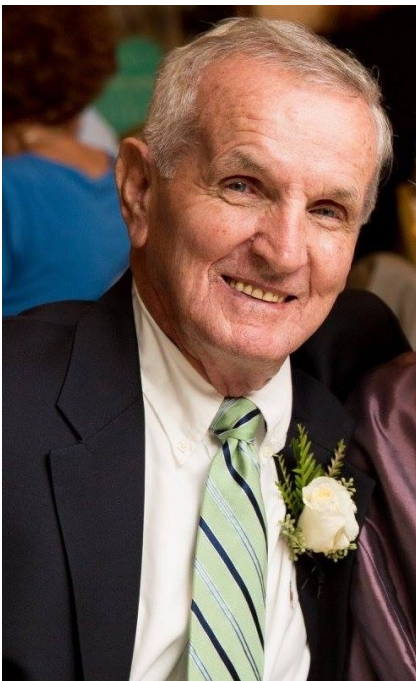


ANTHONY "TONY" ORAMA

Tony has been a part of the Boys & Girls Club since the age of six, beginning his journey at the Great Brook Valley location, where he participated in the grand opening of the gymnasium. He later attended the Ionic Avenue club and continued his involvement through the grand opening of the Kilby Street Boys & Girls Club.

Over the years, Tony has proudly represented the Boys & Girls Club of Worcester at a national event that brought together Clubs from across the United States. He also traveled to Canada to compete in a major basketball tournament on behalf of the Club. His dedication extends beyond participation—Tony has volunteered countless hours supporting a variety of programs, including summer initiatives designed to engage and inspire local youth. He also helped secure a grant and donation from a former employer to benefit the Club's summer programming.

Currently, Tony is pursuing a degree in Human Services while actively coaching basketball at Doherty High School. He also coaches a 6th-grade AAU basketball team and volunteers as a youth coach in local church leagues throughout Worcester. With over a decade of experience in coaching, mentoring, and youth development, Tony remains deeply committed to guiding and empowering the next generation.



BOB DONAHUE

Bob Donahue was a life long resident of the city of Worcester. As a youth, growing up in the Main South section of the city, Bob spent countless hours at the Ionic Ave Boys Club. Bob always spoke of enjoyment and involvement at his "home away from home ". He often gave credit to what the Boys Club gave and offered to him growing up in those early years. His involvement in athletics began there and extended to his days at St Peters High School where he played football, basketball, and baseball. Along with his involvement in team sports, Bob was an avid swimmer. Swimming was another skill he developed at a young age at Ionic Ave and he continued to swim on a regular basis well into his 80's.

Following high school, Bob was drafted in the US Army serving his country from 1952-1954. Following his military service, Bob became a civil engineer for the Mass Department of Public Works where he spent his entire career. Bob married his wife Mary in 1953 and raised 6 children .

While working to raise his family, Bob was also a renowned and highly respected basketball official. Bob officiated at the high school and collegiate levels, officiating numerous Clark and District finals as well as State Championship games in the old Boston Garden. Bob is a past president of the Central Mass Board of Basketball officials Board 26. During his time on the board, he was involved in creating the Cervini Hardy award given annually to a Central Mass school for exemplary sportsmanship.

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AWARDS



SPEAKING UP AWARD, JULIE DAVENPORT

Julie began her community work in Worcester in 2014 through the Young Professional Women's Association (YPWA), where she volunteered with local nonprofits including the Boys & Girls Club, Abby's House, and Habitat for Humanity. As a YPWA board member (2016–2018), she helped grow the organization's impact and recognition.

In 2018, she joined the "Evening in the Park" Committee, leading Worcester's first outdoor gala in Elm Park to record-breaking success for the Boys & Girls Club. Julie was part of the Leadership Worcester Class of 2019 and currently serves as Board President of Habitat for Humanity MetroWest/Greater Worcester.

She has also been a key member of the CASA Project's Champions for Children Committee since 2019, chaired its 2022 golf tournament, and helped achieve record fundraising milestones. In 2023, she joined the Boys & Girls Club's Festival of Trees Committee, personally designing eight holiday tree displays over two years, with more planned for 2025.



AMPLIFY AWARD, MELANIE BONSU

Melanie Bonsu is the Community Relations Manager for Saint-Gobain Abrasives North America, where she leads strategic initiatives to strengthen community ties and enhance corporate impact. With over a decade of experience in nonprofit fundraising and marketing, she brings a strong background in relationship building and campaign management.

A dedicated community leader, Melanie serves on multiple boards and committees, including the Worcester Regional Research Bureau, Notre Dame Academy, Webster Five, the Boys & Girls Club, and the Greater Worcester Community Foundation. She also co-chairs events for the YWCA and Meryl's Safe Haven, and helps organize the Worcester Women's Leadership Conference.

Recognized for her contributions, Melanie has been honored by the Worcester Business Journal, Worcester Magazine, Pulse Magazine, and the Worcester Historical Museum. A lifelong Worcester resident, she holds a BA in English from Worcester State University and lives in the city with her two sons.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF WORCESTER

FRAN PISEGNA VOLUNTEER AWARD, [MATT FOSTER](#)



Matt has been an active member of the Club for several years, beginning with his role on the Gala committee in 2019 and later serving as chair of the Festival of Trees committee, launched during the 2023 holiday season. Matt is the Director of the Housing & Residential Experience Center at WPI and a proud graduate of Leadership Worcester. Deeply committed to his community, Matt volunteers with numerous organizations, including CASA Project Worcester and the Worcester Public Library Foundation. He lives in Worcester with his husband and their two children.

FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE AWARD, [FESTIVAL OF TREES COMMITTEE](#)



For the past two years, the Festival of Trees committee has successfully organized the annual December event in support of the Club's Holiday Giving program. Held at the Worcester Area Mission Society, the Festival showcases 75 to 100 beautifully decorated holiday trees and displays contributed by Worcester businesses. These festive creations are raffled off, with all proceeds benefiting the Club.

But the committee's dedication goes far beyond planning. They invest countless volunteer hours to ensure the event is not only successful, but truly magical and memorable for all who attend. Thanks to their unwavering passion and hard work, the Festival of Trees continues to grow—and we're already excitedly counting down to Year Three this December!

SOUL OF SERVICE AWARD, [HANOVER INSURANCE GROUP](#)



This inaugural award recognizes a business that goes beyond financial support—one that actively engages with our community through meaningful, hands-on involvement. It honors organizations that uplift, inspire, and create lasting impact through memorable events for our youth and their families.

The Hanover Insurance Group truly embodied this spirit.

In partnership with Shoes That Fit, Hanover hosted an unforgettable Back to School celebration, providing 500 children and their families with brand-new, name-brand sneakers. The evening featured a delicious dinner prepared by Hanover's own culinary team and live music that brought the celebration to life.

Be a Summer Hero

There are several ways to make a gift to the Club this summer:

Online: Visit www.bgcworchester.org/donate

By mail: Send a check to Boys & Girls Club of Worcester, ATTN: Liz Hamilton,
65 Boys & Girls Club Way, Worcester, MA 01610

By phone: Call us at (508) 754-2686

Sponsor a Field Trip- \$3,000- \$11,000

Field trips are great way to expose members to exciting experiences, introduce them to new places, and foster a sense of curiosity and exploration. They are also one of the costliest aspects of our summer program. Sponsoring one of our field trips will make a huge difference for our youth this summer. Field trips include:

\$11,000- Six Flags New England

\$7,000- Museum of Science in Boston

\$5,000- Boston Children's Museum in Boston

\$4,500- Southwick Zoo

\$4,500- Pins (bowling alley)

\$4,500- Launch (Trampoline Park)

\$3,000- Trip to the movies

Sponsor a Summer Youth Job- \$5,000

Summer jobs allow teens to earn an income, gain essential work experience, and participate in constructive opportunities during critical out-of-school time.

Your gift of \$5000 will pay for eight weeks of summer employment for a teen (including training, mentoring, and 20+ hours of work per week).

Sponsor lunch for 100 youth during one week of our summer program- \$1,000

Kid's Café is a crucial aspect of our summer program as 1 in 4 kids go to bed hungry in Worcester.

Sponsor a Campership- \$350

We strive to keep our cost low so our families can afford to send their kids to the Club over the summer. Although we charge families \$40/week for our summer programs, it costs our organization \$350/week per child to provide our services such as swim instruction, athletics, the arts, and crucial outdoor time.

Sponsor 4 Club memberships- \$100

A \$25 membership provides a youth with all of our programs, from athletics and the arts to job readiness and Kid's Café.



Thank you to our event sponsors



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