GREAT FUTURES START HERE.
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Dear Friend,

Since 1889, the Boys & Girls Club of Worcester has helped thousands of youth find their way and become the very best individuals they can be. We are a safe haven. Many of our kids are often unsafe on their own streets or in their homes, especially when they are alone for hours after school. We stay open until 9 p.m. during the school year, and provide programs such as Kids Café, a free meal program, as well as individual and group counseling, and other support services.

The Club helps kids achieve. Youth from the neighborhoods we serve are four times less likely to graduate high school than their wealthier classmates. A minority boy who drops out of school is three times likelier to be chronically unemployed, and EIGHT TIMES more likely to go to prison. That’s where the Club comes in, providing an engaging and stimulating space for kids to learn and explore, with guidance from trusted adults, and opportunities that would otherwise be out of reach financially, like music lessons, dance classes, employment programs, college prep, and sports.

We thank you for all you have done for our kids. We charge only $25/year at our flagship Clubhouse, and $10 annually at the two outreach sites, and it is solely due to the generosity of our many supporters that we are able to keep the costs so low for our kids. We are sincerely humbled that so many of you — our donors, volunteers, and supporters — continue to invest in our organization even during challenging times. Thanks to your continued investment, Club kids are able to transform themselves into the adults they want to be. Our Club is truly a “place to become”.

Our kids need your support now more than ever. If we as a community do not intervene, this generation may be the first not to do better than their parents when it comes to education, finances, and quality of life. Our leadership staff and board of directors have developed a strategic plan, “Great Futures 2025,” to ensure the bright futures of our youth. We ask you to please consider doing all you can by volunteering, serving as a mentor, recruiting others to support our Club, and increasing your donations to the Club. Together we can continue to make a difference.

In Partnership,

Liz Hamilton    Ed McGinn

Liz Hamilton    Ed McGinn
Executive Director    Board President
Our flagship facility, located in the heart of Main South, is a beacon of hope for the kids and neighborhoods it serves. Our programs and services are varied, and ensure that we offer something for everyone. For just $25 per year, members are offered:

- Mentors and a support system;
- Homework help and tutoring, college prep, technology, and reading literacy;
- Athletics and social recreation;
- Family-style dinners 5 days a week;
- Dance, music, and visual arts;
- Community service opportunities;
- Employment training and counseling;
- A food pantry and clothing closet;
- and gang prevention and intervention.

**Program Highlights**

Our Individual and Family Support department ensures the well-being of Club families with case management, individual/family counseling, emergency/ basic needs support, and referrals for specialized assistance. Intervention and prevention programs provide youth with constructive, alternative activities that help them make good life choices.

In addition to our programming for kids ages 8-18, we have a School Aged Child Care (SACC) department at our facility, which is licensed through the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and serves kids ages 5-13 who attend 17 schools around Worcester.

Our Club kids make a difference. They take pride in their neighborhoods and participate in community service all over the city, including clean-ups at University Park, rallies for youth jobs, and exercising their voice at “Stand Against Racism” at City Hall. Their hard work and dedication have been recognized:

- Our swim team, the Hurricanes, have competed in 16 consecutive national competitions, and boast national record-holders.
- Our dance team, In Da Zone, has performed throughout Central Massachusetts, in Boston, at Foxwoods, even performing at Carnegie Hall with Patti LaBelle! Shauree Allotey, In Da Zone’s director, received an “excellence in programming” award from BGCA. They were chosen, for a second time, by Boys & Girls Clubs of America, to perform at the national convention, this year in San Diego.

We are proud of our accomplishments. It costs upwards of $600 per child, per year, to offer our lifesaving programs, yet we charge only $25 for an annual membership.

Membership fees account for only $23K of our $2.9 million budget. Our Club raises more annual operations dollars than 90% of the non-profits in Worcester.
Kids Club

Kids Club, the only youth development agency in Great Brook Valley (GBV), is conveniently located in the center of the GBV housing development and easily accessible to all youth in this largest public housing project in New England. Our kids are in good hands with Site Supervisor Carmen Sanchez, who is not only a former longtime resident of Great Brook Valley, but has been a consistent guiding light since taking over Kid’s Club in 1993. Often referred to as “Grandma” by her Club kids, Carmen is an expert at getting things done in GBV!

The staff at Kids Club provide guidance to 275 kids, ages 6-13. Some primarily attend the summer program, while others participate in the school year programs as well. While fellow youth development agencies have been unable to continue their service inside GBV, the Boys & Girls Club of Worcester has maintained a strong presence for 25 years, providing support to our kids who need us most. 92% of Kids Club members live at or below the poverty line. We are their safety net: Five days a week, we serve a family-style dinner, provide academic support, cultural arts, mentoring, and recreational activities.

Recognizing the life-changing programs taking place at the Club, The Hanover Insurance Group has invested significantly in our kids and staff. Aside from essential tools and materials, they provide countless volunteer hours to help shine a spotlight on our Club. With the help of Working for Worcester, a local non-profit dedicated to assisting the youth development agencies and schools in our city, Hanover renovated our Kids Club from the ground up in 2014, creating the beautiful space that our kids deserve while enhancing our quality programs.

Worcester Housing Authority, our 2018 Foundation of the Future award recipient, which oversees the Great Brook Valley site, has stood behind Kids Club for many years, supporting our mission of serving youth and ensuring resources for our summer programming. Without their help in providing a facility, resources, and management, there wouldn’t be a safe place in GBV where the development’s kids can enjoy being a kid.

Located in the basement of a high-rise at 16 Laurel Street in Worcester, our Plumley Village outreach site could easily be overlooked. This community space, however, is a second home to 75 of the youth, ages 8-13, who live in this low-income housing development. We partnered with Community Builders in 2001 to open a place just for the youth in Plumley Village. Every day after school, our kids receive academic support, recreational opportunities, dance and art lessons, and countless games. Without our efforts, they would not have access to this kind of support outside of school. Our mission is to help all kids, and that means those who live all over Worcester. Our diverse staff are experts in specialty activities that resonate with our youth. Spanish dancing, cultural programs, and heritage weeks are some of the ways our kids preserve their individuality and teach their friends something new! The positive vibes emanating from the basement floor are being felt all over Worcester, particularly in the offices of Unum, which has sponsored this outreach site for the past five years. “It’s our privilege to help support the Boys & Girls Club at Plumley Village. Ensuring the happiness and success of all Worcester kids is a community effort.” says Leah MacLeod at Unum.

Thanks to community support, our Plumley Village site has had quite a makeover: New tables, chairs, cubbies, and up-to-date computers for our education room, a new ping-pong table to sharpen their coordination, and large bulletin boards all over to showcase their artwork. With assistance from property manager, Community Builders, which donates the space and has refreshed the walls with a new coat of paint and other enhancements, we are now able to attract more Plumley Village youth to our Club. Did you know that the number one component in keeping a child safe and reaching their full potential is one positive adult influence? We have that in spades at Plumley Village. Since 64% of our members are living in a single-parent households, our qualified staff, as well as volunteers from Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Unum, and College of the Holy Cross, serve as mentors to our youth, ensuring that they are provided plenty of positive individual attention.
1. David Armstrong, Executive Director of the Boys Club of Worcester, was the first president of Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

2. Our dance team, In Da Zone, has won two national competitions.

3. Former Club kid Jose Antonio Rivera, is a three-time world boxing champion.

4. In our history, we have called four different buildings home (not including outreach sites).

5. We serve a free meal to approximately 300 members five days a week in Kid’s Café.

6. We provide programming in six core areas: Healthy Habits, Academic Success, Leadership & Civicism, Gang Prevention, Family Support, and the Arts.

7. We are one of seven partnering agencies in YouthConnect, under fiscal agent United Way of Central Massachusetts.

8. Kids can become full Club members at age eight.

9. We offer nine college scholarships to Club high school students.

10. An annual membership at our outreach site costs $10.


12. In 2015, 12 of our dancers participated in the first-ever Club ballet class.

13. Misty Copeland, the first African-American principal dancer in the American Ballet Theatre, took her first ballet class at the Boys & Girls Club of San Pedro at age 13.
14. In 1914, our supporters and alumni built the Ionic Avenue Clubhouse in downtown Worcester. At the time, the concept of a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to youth was unheard-of.

15. Our Club is one of 15 organizations that founded Boys & Girls Clubs of America in 1906.

16. Our aquatic team has competed in nationals for 16 consecutive years.

17. We have served dinner through Kid’s Café for the past 17 years.

18. We have had 18 dedicated board members (2016-17), who represent companies such as Fallon Health, Hanover Insurance, and Unum. We have 19 now!

19. 19 teens completed the lifeguard certification course in 2017.

20. We are one of 100 “Club Tech” computer Clubhouses in over 20 countries.

21. Our goal is to increase giving so we can serve even more kids by 2021.

22. Mary DiBara was our 22nd president, and first female head of the board.

23. We receive approximately $23,000 in annual revenue from memberships. The rest of our $2.9M budget is raised through child care and fund raising.

24. 24 women participated in our “Women Leaders in the Community” photo series in 2014, including Senator Harriette Chandler, WPI President Laurie Leshin, and Hanover Insurance Group’s VP of Marketing, Jen Luisa.
Welcome to our

25. An annual membership to our Harrington Club is only $25.

26. Alumni Hall of Famer Ken Kaufman was the head coach for the WPI women’s basketball team for 26 years.

27. 27% of Club alumni stated they would have dropped out of high school if it wasn’t for the Club.

28. Club kid Albina Osipowich competed in the 1928 Summer Olympics, and won two gold medals in swimming.

*29. Liz Hamilton says she will always stay 29 years old, to better serve our kids.

30. Board President Ed McGinn has been working at the Worcester Police Department for over 30 years.

31. In 1931, the Federated Boys’ Clubs officially changed its name to Boys Clubs of America.

32. 32 boxers from around New England competed in the Junior Olympics which was held at our Harrington facility in April.

33. 33% of our 2017 Club graduates are the first in their family to go to college.

34. Anthony Soares, former member of our swim team, has won 34 aquatic trophies. He was also our 2017 Youth of the Year.

* Fact might be exaggerated for the purpose of this report.
35. Job readiness training became an important staple of our Club programs 35 years ago, during what was then the most severe recession since the Great Depression.

36. Our longest-serving employee, Carlos Garcia, has been with the Club for 36 years.

37. We employ at least 37 teens as “junior staff” each year.

38. For the past ten years, our Club has been comprised of 38% girls. We serve more girls on-site than any other youth development agency in Central Mass. In 2018, that percentage increased to 42%.

39. Teens make up 39% of the youth we serve.

40. Our Youths of the Year compete against reps from 40 other Clubs for the state title.

41. Our after-school program runs for 41 weeks during the school year.

42. Bill Clinton, 42nd President of the United States, visited our Club and spoke to our kids in 2006.

43. John Denkins, a member of our Alumni Hall of Fame, became a member of the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials in 1943.

44. Our state-of-the-art Harrington Clubhouse is more than 44,000 sq. feet.

45. There are 45 members of our swim team, The Hurricanes.

46. 46% of our annual budget comes from grants.

47. We have honored 47 people at our “Sports & Celebrity Nite” events.

48. Christopher Christopher, a member of our Alumni Hall of Fame, was the 1948 National Pull-Up Champion.


"The Boys and Girls Club plays such an influential role in the lives of so many young people in our community. The Hanover is a proud partner of the organization and its mission to help create brighter futures for local children and youth."
- Paul Belsito, Hanover Insurance
50. Alumni Hall of Famer David “Duddie” Massad started his career by opening Duddie’s Cadillac City in 1950.

51. Alumni Hall of Famer Togo Palazzi was the leading scorer on the Holy Cross Crusaders’ 1951 men’s basketball team.

52. Former Club kid Coralie O’Connor was a member of the 1952 Olympic swim team.

53. In 1906, we were one of 53 Boys’ Clubs to form the Federated Boys’ Clubs.

54. In 1954, Club alum and Hall of Famer Ben Masterman was ranked among the top ping-pong players in the country.

55. Club kid and Olympian Coralie O’Connor was named an All-American swimmer in 1955.

56. Alumni Hall of Famer Donald Williamson retired from boxing in 1956 after competing in eight world championships.

57. We had 57 graduating high school seniors in the 2016 class.

58. In 1958, board president Kenneth P. Higgins agreed to serve a final term.

59. Alumni Hall of Famer Gabe Simon was the Boys & Girls Clubs of America’s free throw contest winner, with 59/60 shots.

60. Our 2016 Youth of the Year, Tavian Vassar, was one of 60 kids selected from 1,500 applicants to receive a Posse Scholarship, providing him with a full ride to Bucknell University.
61. Average daily attendance at our Great Brook Valley site is 61 during the school year.
62. Until 2018, our Club was comprised of 62% boys. That percentage is now 58%.
63. Alumni Hall of Famer Donald “The Choirboy” Williamson fought in eight boxing world championships during his career, ending with a 6-3 record.
64. Right before he passed away in 1964, Herbert Hoover named Richard Nixon as the Boys’ Clubs of America chairman.
65. We have our own radio station, called “Live on 65”.
66. Despite originating as a Boys Club, 66% of our executive staff is comprised of women.

67. 67% of alumni say the Club helped them discover their goals and aspirations.

68. Academy-award winning actor and BGCA alum Cuba Gooding Jr. was born in 1968.
69. 69% of our youth live in single-parent households.
70. In the 1970’s, Camp Harrington, our summer camp site, was the place to be.
71. Our EEC-accredited School Aged Child Care program has 71 registered youth ages 5-12.
72. There are 72 members of our award-winning dance team, In Da Zone.
73. There are 73 participants in our three BGCA-based leadership groups.

75. We serve 75 gang or court-involved youth annually through our Targeted Outreach Program.
77. 77 of our middle-school-aged girls participate in our SMART Girls program.
78. 78% of our members say they have a relationship with a trusted adult at the Club. This is well ahead of the national average.
80. 80% of our Club kids live at or below the poverty line.
81. Boxing coach Carlos Garcia began volunteering at our Club in 1981.
82. In 1982, Gabe Simon, who was serving as president of the BGCW Alumni Association, was appointed head of the national organization.
83. In 1983, the Lincoln Square Clubhouse’s Biddy Basketball team, with coach J.P. Ricciardi, “crushed” the Ionic Ave. team, according to Director of Community Engagement Ike McBride.
84. In 1984, Club alum Rich Gedman had a career high of 24 home runs with the Boston Red Sox.
85. I.H.A.C.’s Marty Hasting’s Memorial Golf Tournament, which has benefitted our Club for 6 years, is always held at Heritage Country Club, located at 85 Sampson Road in Charlton.
86. 1986 was one of 5 years Club alum Ralph Raymond coached his team to a gold medal at the Women’s Softball World Championship.
Our Plan: Great Futures 2025

Our mission is kid-focused, and the welfare of our youth is always the top priority. For that reason, we must rely on our existing community partners, as well as new friends, to invest in our belief that all kids, no matter their financial situation, deserve everything they need in order to achieve. Our plan below, which aligns with BGCA’s strategic initiatives, outlines our Club’s direction to become financially viable and ensure an impactful Club experience for all our youth.

Priority #1: Build Capacity

- Secure financial stability,
- Improve the Club experience, and
- Continue to expand our reach.

Priority #2: Increase Program Quality

It is critical to achieve a high level of program quality. The goal is to provide our kids with a Club experience that is safe and fun, leads to a sense of belonging, and develops the skills needed to succeed in the 21st century.

Priority #3: Advocate for Youth Development

We are a voice for youth. We give them a way to express themselves in our community and on a national stage. We will advocate for access to high-quality after-school programs and experiences that equip young people with the tools to succeed, by working with government and community leaders.

Priority #4: Reach More Youth

Once we have achieved success in the first three priority areas, we will be positioned for accelerated growth to pursue our vision: Every child having access to a life-changing Club experience. Our goal is to serve 10,000 youth per year, including 2,000 teens, by 2025.

How

- Align our strategic and operating plans with BGCA’s Great Futures 2025.
- Recruit world-class professional and board leadership, and increase their involvement.
- Grow resource development capacity locally and movement-wide.
- Establish and enhance collaborations with other organizations, including Mass Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs, YouthConnect, Worcester Public Schools, DPH, and the city of Worcester.

Action Items

- Provide service education opportunities for local colleges and their students who volunteer. Colleges pay participation fees for this service.
- Explore efficiency opportunities and back-office services for other local Clubs or youth-serving agencies, including acquisitions and mergers.
- Grow our alumni and donor base through cultivation and stewardship activities.
- Reorganize program staff to maintain impact while decreasing expenses.
- Leverage our YouthConnect partnership to enhance programs and trainings, and increase funding opportunities.
- Explore alternate solutions for School Age Child Care transportation, our fastest-rising expense, to protect one of our most important revenue streams.
- Create a guild of facilities professionals to donate their services and in-kind materials.
- Establish a $6M endowment
87. Our Director of Community Engagement, Ike McBride, was Youth of the Year in 1987.

88. After 88 years at Ionic Ave., our organization began a capital campaign to build a new Clubhouse.

89. Our Clubhouse was founded as the Worcester Boys Club in 1889.

90. 90% of Club kids who participate in our homework help program increase their grades by at least one letter in at least one class.

91. The name of our organization was officially changed to the Boys & Girls Club of Worcester in 1991, to reflect the participation of girls.

92. 92 years ago, Reginald Washburn, inventor of the eggbeater, was in his third year as president of our Club.


94. Our first location, Barton Place, was our home in 1894.


96. Club alum Jose Rivera won his first of two Massachusetts state boxing titles in 1996.

97. For the past 6+ years, at least 97% of our graduating high schools seniors went on to attend college.

98. 98 unduplicated youth participated in art classes provided by Clark University’s LEEP program in 2017.
99. The 99 Restaurant dedicates the month of October to raising funds and awareness for our Club.

100. **100%** of our 2016 & 2017 high school graduates were accepted into college.

101. Plumley Village welcomed **101** registered kids at its site during the 2015-16 school year.

102. Over the past ten years, we have provided **102** college scholarships to our Club seniors.

103. Our Ionic Ave. building is **103** years old, and still standing. It is scheduled to reopen as a maker space in the summer.

104. Our four longest-tenured employees have **104** years of youth development experience.

105. Counting “IDZ Leadership” and “Future Leaders,” there were **105** members of our leadership clubs in 2016.

106. We have **106** trophies and awards in our lobby.

107. In Da Zone was chosen to perform at BGCA’s **107th** National Conference in Orlando, Florida in 2013.

108. Academy Award winning actor and BGCA alum Denzel Washington has received **108** award nominations (so far).

109. Former Club kid Smokey Robinson has made **109** albums throughout his career.

110. The Ionic Friendship Mother’s Club, Alumni Hall of Fame honoree, had **110** members.

111. We have **111** different types of items in our emergency closet such as deodorant, body wash, soap, and clothing.
112. 112 of the Club kids & families who used our Family Support services in 2016 moved from “crisis” to “thriving”.

113. 113 Club youth participate in activities in our games room every day.

114. 114 years after our Club’s opening, Steve “Tank” Tankanow served his 50,000th meal in his third year of Kid’s Café.

115. After 115 years of service, our Club launched the capital campaign that allowed us to build our current Harrington facility.

*116. In 2116, Liz Hamilton will still be in her current role, and will be the longest serving executive director in our Club’s history.*

117. We opened the doors to our current facility on our 117th birthday, in 2006.

118. 118 years ago, our Club celebrated its first big community event in Worcester.

119. 119 Worcester businesses provided our Club with in-kind gifts in 2017.

120. Our food pantry, sponsored by Fallon Health, helped approximately 120 Club families last year.

121. In Da Zone competed against 121 teams in the prestigious “Prelude New England” competition in 2016.

122. 122 Club kids participated in athletic programs on Clark’s collegiate track & field in its first month of opening.

123. The Harrington Clubhouse was given its name at our 123rd Annual Meeting, after we received a $3 million gift from the Harrington Foundation.

124. In 2016, 124 youth graduated from our job readiness program.

125. We celebrated our 125th anniversary in 2014 at historic Mechanics Hall. BGCA President, Jim Clark, attended the ceremony.

126. Friends of the Boys & Girls Club of Worcester raised enough funds to send 126 of our kids to 4 weeks of our summer programming in 2017.

127. In 2015, Liz Hamilton was appointed the first female Executive Director in our (then) 127-year history.

128. Kid’s Club at Great Brook Valley served 128 kids during the 2015-16 school year.

129. Our dance team, In Da Zone, was chosen to perform at BGCA’s 129th National Convention in San Diego, CA.

* Fact might be exaggerated for the purpose of this report.
Tavian Vassar epitomizes the Youth of the Year title: determined, talented, and community-oriented. After earning a 3.7 GPA from Doherty High School, Tavian competed with 1,500 other contestants. Tavian graduated from Worcester Technical High School in 2015, and is currently working toward a degree in Criminal Justice at Worcester State University. One of a set of triplets, and just 21 years old, Tavian has overcome obstacles to get where she is today.

“The Club saved me.”

- Tiana Felix, 2015 Youth of the Year

“A long-time Club kid (11 years!), Tiana Felix exemplifies the qualities we strive to instill in our members. She was our 2015 Youth of the Year, as well as the runner-up for the state title, where she competed against 40 other contestants. Tiana graduated from Worcester Technical High School in 2015, and is currently working toward a degree in Criminal Justice at Worcester State University. One of a set of triplets, and just 21 years old, Tiana has overcome obstacles to get where she is today.

“The reason why I am so grateful for where I am is because of my past,” explains Tiana. Off and on, Tiana, her mom, and siblings were homeless; living with friends and family, and for about six months, in a shelter. “I felt unloved and unaccepted, but the one thing that was constant and good in my life was the Boys & Girls Club. The Club saved me.” Tiana cites the Club and the Worcester Police Department Gang Unit as the two institutions that helped her get where she is today. “I’m lucky to have so much support around me. I know I won’t fail.”

Tavian Vassar epitomizes the Youth of the Year title: determined, talented, and community-oriented. After earning a 3.7 GPA from Doherty High School, Tavian competed with 1,500 other youth to earn one of 60 tuition-free Posse Scholarships to Bucknell, where he’s pursuing electrical engineering. His path to success had a few bumps along the way. “My mom and siblings are my rock, but I’d see other kids hanging out with their dads, and think, ‘Why can’t that be me?’ I really needed an older male role model who could teach me what it means to be a man.” Tavian found several mentors at the Club he could rely on. “The first staff person I got close to was Andrew, who ran the education room. He taught me that being smart and wanting to learn was cool, and not geeky. Then I got to know Ike and Josh, and they showed me that it’s important to get involved in your community. They’d say that if I want the world to change, that I need to be a part of it, and help make the change.” Tavian continues to give back to both his Worcester and Bucknell communities. As a Club alum he is now a mentor to younger Club kids. Tavian believes he might not have found his niche without the Club’s diverse offerings.
Anthony began his Club experience at seven years old at our Ionic Ave Clubhouse, with a swim class taught by Aquatic Director Ian Witt. Thirteen years later, Anthony became captain of the Worcester Public High School swim team for the second time, a nationally ranked athlete, and a certified lifeguard employed at the Club. His time at the Club offered the support he needed during a very challenging time.

When Anthony was in middle school, his parents began a messy divorce, which tore his family apart and tested his faith, a large part of his life. Anthony’s family was heavily involved in their church. Once a place of solace and joy, his church became another reminder of what he had lost. Anthony decided then that he had to grow up fast. Laughing with friends and playing after school soon ended, as he adopted a more serious persona. He also fought the temptation to let out his aggressions in dark and destructive ways. That’s where the Club stepped in. “I’ve become someone I never would have thought I could be, back then. I wasn’t too happy about their “interfering” then, but now I’m grateful every day that my Club mentors didn’t let me lose myself like that.”

Anthony is currently studying Physical Therapy at Springfield College with the hope of one day helping fellow athletes.

Reflecting on her years at the Club and the effect of our life-saving programs, 2018 Youth of the Year Rachel Ansah says, “It revealed to me how much power I had inside me”.

Growing up in Worcester’s Main South neighborhood, Rachel has been exposed to the consequences of living an unhealthy, destructive life. She did not allow her surroundings to dictate her future, even when things looked their worst. In the middle of seventh grade, her parents separated, something unheard of in the Ghanaian community, and her traditional home life was torn apart. Now living in a broken home, Rachel felt isolated in her own community, and her father’s absence occurred just as she entered young adulthood. Despite the burden, Rachel knew she had to keep going. In Da Zone, our award-winning dance program at the Club, was the healthy outlet that helped Rachel fight through this situation. “As a team member, I have learned to illustrate my thoughts and ideas through dance and develop my own style.” Her hard work has paid off, as she, and the rest of In Da Zone, traveled to Orlando in 2013 and San Diego in 2018 to perform at BGCA’s National Convention, after being chosen from over 200 entries each time. Rachel’s ability to channel her struggles into motivation is a skill that will guarantee her success in the future.

She is a member of the National Honor Society, the student council, the Superintendent Advisory Committee, and the International Show Committee. She has completed over 500 hours of community service during her senior year of high school alone, both at the Club and in the community. Her future plans include utilizing her experience as a mentor to younger Club dancers into a career in pediatrics.
Meet Liz Hamilton, the Club’s Executive Director

After 127 years, the Boys & Girls Club of Worcester found its first female executive director in Liz Hamilton in 2015. Liz served as the Club’s director of development for seven years and assistant executive director for three before moving to her current role. Prior to working at the Club, Liz was involved with several high-profile capital campaigns including the Hanover Theatre and the Club’s campaign to build a new Clubhouse in Main South.

A former educator, social worker, and fundraising professional, Liz has a deep understanding of what our kids need and will go that extra mile to get it. While intending to get her Master’s in journalism, she worked at a Worcester after-school program, and that changed her career path for good. Seeing firsthand the profound impact one person can have on a youth changed her focus to learning about the relationship between mentors and kids with adverse childhood experiences. Her Master’s in social work from Boston University enabled Liz to serve a generation of Worcester’s youth in a profound way.

Leading a nonprofit which mostly relies on contributions from individuals, businesses, and foundations requires an exec who is mission-driven and able to convey that mission to others. Liz is firm in her belief that a successful organization balances fiscal responsibility with social accountability, and she is a tireless advocate who inspires others to join the cause. When our summer funding was reduced, Liz found alternative resources to ensure we would be here for our kids during that crucial out-of-school period. She knows that after school hours and summer vacation programming is vital in sustaining the progress of our kids—and successfully demonstrated the urgency to our donors. When four of our leadership youth worked hard to earn spots at the Boys & Girls Club of America’s Leadership Conference in Chicago, Liz searched for additional funding to send them. “We want our kids to explore new things and venture outside their comfort zone. We have a responsibility to provide our kids with resources they would not have access to otherwise. Every kid should have opportunity to grow,” she says.

Liz serves on the board at the Main South Community Development Corporation and is a key member of the team revitalizing our neighborhood. Along with the city of Worcester, Clark University, and the Main South CDC, Liz and the staff at the Club work to shine a positive light on the progress of the revitalization of the Main South neighborhood by providing quality programming for kids, resources for parents, and community forums where their voices are heard on important local topics.

Liz has been advocating for our kids since her Club involvement began fourteen years ago, and there is no end in sight. She started life-saving programs such as our food pantry (sponsored by Fallon Health), our case management department, and holiday giving, and increased girls-only programming to 40 hours a week. She is also a corporator at the Bridge of Central MA, where she fights for mental health access for youth. “The Club is here to help youth who need us most. It’s what guides our decisions and keeps us kid-focused.”
Healthy Habits

51% of Club youth improve their eating habits due to our nutrition education workshops.

We serve approximately 300 meals daily in Kid’s Café.

Academic Success

87% of Club youth had a perfect or near-perfect school attendance record in 2017.

100% of our 2016-2018 graduating high school seniors were accepted to college.

83 youth have completed the in-class driver’s ed course for FREE at our facility.

84% Club youth believe they can make a difference in their community.

Leadership & Civicism

Our staff teach our youth that volunteering in their community will create a better and brighter future for everyone.

88% of our kids volunteer in the Club and/or their communities, even the under-12’s, who have no volunteer requirement.

Our Healthy Habits programs ensure that our Club kids receive nutritional education, at least 1 hour of physical activity a day, a meal 5 days a week, and prevention education.
The Arts

Most of our Club kids lack access to any arts programs outside the Club walls. The arts are a valuable outlet — often crucial for our kids, many of whom struggle to express themselves positively.

Nearly 66% of our attendees, on average, participate in at least one arts program each week.

Youth exposed to the arts are 4 times more likely to be recognized for academic achievements.

Gang Prevention

Joseph Early Jr., DA for Worcester County and a former Club kid, is a partner in our intervention efforts. He says, “My staff and I are confident that the Club model works. Most of the kids who go through the programs don’t return to the legal system.”

80% of our teens will complete our job readiness programs or skill certification courses, and apply for either Club or outside jobs/internships.

More than 300 youth attended the Worcester Police Department’s G.A.N.G. Camp in 2017, a three-week program where our kids participate in constructive activities run by the WPD Gang Unit and Club staff in hopes of diminishing the barrier between youth and law enforcement.

Family Support

Our Club is one of three sites nationwide chosen to participate in a pilot Harvard University study on resilience. “Be There” teaches positive, healthy coping skills, with an emphasis on overcoming loss and trauma.

86% of our individuals and families who were assessed in 2017 moved from “Crisis” to “Stability,” and 20% moved to “Thriving.”

We provide gifts to more than 2,000 youth and support to 200 families through our Holiday Giving program.
Invest in our Future with a Named Gift

Each year, we must raise $2.9 million to keep our doors open. Your investment allows us to concentrate on our mission. Our goal is to develop an operational reserve and building maintenance fund, and an endowment that will sustain us through any difficulties we may face in the future. It will ensure that we are always here to serve Worcester’s kids – for another 129 years!

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, with free lunch and snacks all summer. In 2017, we served more than 27,000 meals.

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 help our kids stay healthy.

The gym has hardwood floors, bleachers, and 6 basketball hoops. 44% of our kids are at high risk for obesity, so we encourage at least 60 minutes of physical activity 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, craft fairs, etc. are also held in the gym; a named gift would feature prominently in one of our most visible areas.
Outdoor Athletic Court-
$250,000
Gift Impact: Our outdoor court has long provided Club kids with a safe place to play. Most of them live in neighborhoods where there is limited access to open space.

Our fenced-in outdoor court comes with 2 basketball hoops and lots of possibilities. Designed for basketball, street hockey, and playground games, the court also hosts 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.

Outdoor Patio-
$500,000
Gift Impact: The patio is a gathering place, a viewing area, and a major program space during the warmer months. All Club members use it many times a year, for cookouts, ping-pong tournaments, Club-wide performances, and outdoor crafts.

The patio overlooks the Clark University intramural athletic field, which is open for our use several days per week, and where most of our outdoor activities take place. A major gift would maintain the largest open space for many of our families.

Performing Arts Suite-
$1 million
Gift Impact: All kids need opportunities to express themselves positively, and arts programs are far out of financial reach for most of our Club youth. Nearly two-thirds of our members participate in at least one arts program every year.

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

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.
Annual Report

Donor List

Gifts from January 1, 2017–December 31, 2017

We have made every attempt to ensure the accuracy of this list; we apologize for any errors or omissions.

$75,000 and up
Anonymous

$20,000 – $74,999
James Harrington & Mary Dibara
Ladd Lavallee
Arthur and Debra Remillard

$10,000 – $19,999
Edson & Eileen deCastro
David and Barbara Krashes
Thomas LaVigne
Linda Masterman
Dennis and Wendy O’Leary
George and Anna Krikorian Fund at Greater Worcester Community Foundation (GWCF)

$5,000 – $9,999
Michael Martin
Elaine and Gerry H. Roy

$1,000 – $4,999
Joseph Bafaro
John Batista

The Boys & Girls Club of Worcester is grateful for Mark and Louise Holden’s generous support of our Academic Success and Community Engagement programs.
Ellin Terrill
David Viens
Peter J. & Rosie Kosky Fund at GWCF
Robert G. & Eliza C. Hess Fund at GWCF

Wendy Abetz
John Ablondi
Douglas F. Adams
Shauree Allotey
James Amorelo
Douglas Anderson
David Angel
Richard Ardizzone
Jean A Ashton
Edward Augustus Jr.
Roger Bachour
Roger & Myrtle Bacon
Nicole Baez
Tracy Baldelli
George Ballantyne
Michael Barbera
Diane Barnaby
Gregory Beets
Harris and Deborah Berenson
Morris Bergman
Amanda Bernasconi

Mark Berthiaume
Kevin Bickford
Kristine A. Binette
Eric Blanchard
George Blaney
Leslie Blute
M. Gwyneth Bombard
Mark Bombard
Michael Bonasia
Amanda Boyer
Roger Bradford
Kevin Bradley
Thomas Brick
Courtney Brousseau
Aku Brown
Joshua Brown
Katelyn Brunelle
Phyllis Bruso
Lorraine Brutti
Timothy R. Brutto
H. Paul Buckingham
Nancy A. Buckingham
Amy Bullet
Elizabeth Burbank
Jeffrey Burk
Kim & Chuck Burton
Regis Cain
Lucy Candib
Wanda Cantlin
Cynthia A. Capobianco
Edward J. Capstick
Edwin Carlson
Julie Carney
Miriam Carpenter
Lorraine & Anthony Carruthers
Rachel T. Carruthers
Charles Cary
Christine Cassidy
Amy-Margaret Castellano
Richard & Wendy Cehon
Eduard Cerny
Vilma Ceron
Robert Chakarian
Kathy Chapman
Keith Chester
Christopher Christopher
Lisa Coakley
Michele Coakley
Mark W. Colebrook
James Collins
Gary Comeau
Lynne Connor
Richard Conrad
John Conte
Robert Cousy
Marilyn Cowden
Tracey Cravedi
Dorelee and Michael Crawford
Andrea Crisafulli
Dean Croucher
Jennifer Cruz
Chris Cutliffe
Geraldine Czajkowski
Ellen J. Daly
John Daughney
Chris Davies
William Davis
Anthony DeCiccio
Donald DeFosse
Anthony Detarando
Dennis Dimitri
Mitchell Dlubac
Barbara Dolan
Patricia Domenick
Anthony Donahue
William Donahue
Suzzane Dowdle
LauraLea Dube
Cheryl Ducharme
Thomas Duffy
Christopher Durham
Matthew Early
William Eicholzer
Michael Eressy
John Farnsworth
Michael Fay
Bob Feiner
Neil Feldman
Mercado Felix
Thomas Feraco
Yarimar Figueroa
Catherine Finneran
Marie Fitzgerald
Joy Flanagan
Marilyn E. Flynn
Chris Foley
Joan Foley
Karen Foley
Joanne Fowling
Maria Franceschi
Kevin Franck
David Freedman
Darlene Frigon
Michael Gaffney
Dina Gagne
Laura Galeski
Gale M. Gangi
Edward Gardella
Cynthia Gouley
R.F. Gray
YouthConnect: The Power of Collaboration

The Boys & Girls Club of Worcester is a proud partner of YouthConnect (YC), which consists of seven executive partners under the fiscal agency of the United Way of Central Massachusetts (UW). YouthConnect provides neighborhood-based recreational, educational, and cultural services to isolated and underserved youth, ages 5-24, in Worcester, including a summer evening program for middle-school youth.

Our Executive Director Liz Hamilton is co-chair of this impactful consortium, with David Connell of the YMCA of Central Massachusetts. Liz proudly touts the consortium’s positive influence: “It is unheard-of for national youth-serving agencies to work together in such a meaningful and non-competitive way. Our partners collaborate and share resources to ensure that all of Worcester’s kids have the best programs and services. We truly believe that collaboration makes us stronger, and we will continue to collectively advocate for our kids.”

Executive Partners + United Way of Central Massachusetts

History & Accomplishments
- Founded in 1991 as a summer program (YouthNet), transitioned into a year-round model in 2006, and became a consortium in 2011, to measure outcomes and make referrals across agencies.
- As of summer 2017, all 7 agencies embraced the new measurement system, Efforts to Outcomes software, and a pilot summer report initiative was successfully launched. Program impact reports were shared with partners and funders.
  - Data reporting used to inform and improve our services and practices.
  - Combined, our agencies reach youth ages 5–24 and we have the capacity to conduct longitudinal studies on thousands of youth.
- Held our first strategic retreat since becoming a program of UW, in April 2018, to establish:
  - Operating principles
  - Reorganization of structure and roles
  - Collaborative goals with WPS, City of Worcester, DPH, and other agencies
  - Updated initiatives to better serve our youth

To learn how you can help support YouthConnect, please contact Liz Hamilton at lhamilton@bgcworcester.org.
The Boys & Girls Club of Worcester is a member of C.H.I.P. (Coalition for a Healthy Greater Worcester), whose overall goal is health equity in Worcester County. Whether it means access to food, shelter, medical treatment, or job readiness, the Club helps eliminate gaps between services, with a focus on outreach to vulnerable populations:

- The Club is a one-stop shop where kids access counseling, case management, and referrals without stigma or transportation issues.
- The Community HELP initiative was launched here: It makes it easy to find services for specific populations, for instance a family in crisis who only speaks Spanish. We see when referrals are opened, when the appointment is made, and staff follow up with the youth and family.
- Youth-Police dialogues at our Club heal rifts on both sides.
- Our food pantry and emergency clothing closet help kids & families in need.

Due to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), most Club kids are at risk of developing toxic stress, and many could progress to physical/mental ailments, even early death. Without help and treatment, these kids are likely to drop out, engage in delinquent behavior, develop addictions, etc. They know and trust our staff, and can access counseling and other services without anyone knowing.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mathew Shrauger</th>
<th>Erika Tetreault</th>
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<tr>
<td>Marsha Silverman</td>
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**In-Kind**

| Rachel Amour | Lois Giguere |
| Christine Anthony | Frank and Mary Gleason |
| Beth Bafaro | Debbie and Craig Goldsmith |
| Tracey M. Baldelli | Kenny Graves |
| Patti Barnard | Bill and Linda Griffith |
| Valerie McGinty Barr | Andrew Gusev |
| Emily Batt | MaryJo Hart |
| Sue Bernard | Tasha Hayden |
| Kristine Boland | Idella Hazard |
| Janet Bolivar | Lois Giguere |
| Julie Bowditch | Eva Brown |
| Erika Brown | Kate Carey |
| Robert Duca | Erin Jansky |
| Dave Duncan | Ron Jarret |
| Sheryl Fiol | Lee Joseph |
| Meghan Gallagher | Jacob Kahn |
| Emily Ascolillo Downey | Donna Katsoudas |
| Jeni Luisa | Kristin Kotel |
| Robert Lindgren | Garen Kroshian |
| Emily Downey | Brett Kubiak |
| Emily Ascolillo Downey | Laurie LaChapelle |
| Robert Duca | Kori Lemovitz |
| Dave Duncan | Margaret Leroux |
| Sheryl Fiol | Robert Lindgren |
| Laura Galeski | Jeni Luisa |
| Melisa Mahler | Ellie Lupafya |
| Rebeccah L. Mailea | Louise Lussier |
| Marcy Manca | Melissa Mahler |
| Bill Gibbons | Rebeccah L. Mailea |
| Linda Masterman | Mary Jo Hart |

**In-Kind**

| Kathleen McCann | Frank and Mary Gleason |
| Nadia McGrath | Debbie and Craig Goldsmith |
| Cheryl McGrath | Kenny Graves |
| Lynn Mills | Bill and Linda Griffith |
| Amanda Misilo | Andrew Gusev |
| Sister Christa Marie | MaryJo Hart |
| Markt Saint Mary’s Abbey | Tasha Hayden |
| Joy Murrieta | Idella Hazard |
| Jenni Nuhn | Lois Giguere |
| Chris Obert | Eva Brown |
| Kevin O’Connor | Erin Jansky |
| Wendy and Dennis O’Leary | Ron Jarret |
| Angela Orange | Lee Joseph |
| Alesia Padula | Jacob Kahn |
| Lisa Perry | Donna Katsoudas |
| Freya Pollack | Kristin Kotel |
| Gerald Price Jr. | Garen Kroshian |
| Kevin Reilly | Brett Kubiak |
| Kimberly Salmon | Laurie LaChapelle |
| Joe Santa Maria | Kori Lemovitz |
| Patrick Sargent | Margaret Leroux |
| Mackenzie Satalino | Robert Lindgren |
| Yuka Sato | Jeni Luisa |
| Karen Shapiro | Ellie Lupafya |
| Cheryl Schmaltz | Louise Lussier |
| Karen Shapiro | Melissa Mahler |
| Ajeet Singh | Rebeccah L. Mailea |
| Sam Smith | Mary Jo Hart |
Businesses, Organizations, Trusts and Foundations

$100,000 and over
- Fallon Health
- Masterman's LLP
- Newman's Own
- Ninety Nine Restaurant & Pub
- Reliant Medical Group
- Rockwell Foundation

$75,000 - $99,999
- FedEx Services
- Massachusetts Bankers Association Charitable Foundation Inc.
- Massport Port Authority
- Mint Green Planet
- People's United Bank
- Schwartz Charitable Foundation
- TD Bank - Worcester Branch
- TD Charitable Foundation
- Teamsters Local Union No. 25
- The Agnes M. Lindsay Trust
- The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts, Inc.
- Wells Fargo Foundation
- Windhorse Capital Management, LLC
- Worcester Center for Performing Arts
- Worcester Railers HC Charitable Foundation, Inc.

$50,000 - $74,999
- American Peabody Foundation
- “Bound for D.C.” – Worcester Police Gang Unit
- Bradley C. Higgins Foundation
- Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Grant
- City of Worcester – Community Development Block Grant
- Fletcher Foundation
- George F. and Sybil H. Fuller Foundation
- Greater Worcester Community Foundation
- Hanover Insurance Group Foundation, Inc.
- Stoddard Charitable Trust
- The Mary M. Coes Charitable Trust
- The TJX Foundation, Inc.
- UNUM

$10,000 - $19,999
- Albert W. Rice Charitable Trust
- Community Foundations of North Central MA
- Demoulas Foundation
- Ruth H. & Warren A. Ellsworth Foundation
- Andrew B. O'Donnell
- AT&T Inc.
- Boys & Girls Club of America
- Charter Communications, Inc
- Coghlin Electrical Contractors, Inc
- Commerce Bank
- Conte Insurance Agency, Inc
- Cornerstone Bank
- CSX Transportation
- Diamond Technical Services
- Dresser & McGourthy, LLP
- Eliot Community Human Services
- Elizabeth Orndorff Trust
- Enterprise Holdings Foundation
- ERA Key Charitable Organization
- Family Services of Central MA
- Fidelity Bank
- First Bristol Corporation
- GAP Foundation
- Google Inc.
- Harvard Pilgrim Health Care
- Herlihy Insurance Agency
- Hester N. Wetherell Trust
- Imperial Distributors
- Income Research + Management
- J.J. Bafaro
- Josephs Lock & Safe Co.
- Lamoureux Ford
The Boys & Girls Club of Worcester strives to form strong, lasting relationships with our corporate partners, a crucial aspect to the growth of our organization. Volunteerism and in-kind donations are great ways to give back to our community. Corporate volunteers provide additional resources that enhance our programs and services. There are countless ways to make a difference in the lives of our kids:

- **Service Day**- Performing yardwork, cleaning the interior of the building, painting rooms, etc.
- **Arts & Crafts**- Doing a craft project with our kids ages 5-12.
- **Career Workshop**- Visiting our pre-teens and teens and discussing your career and the type of opportunities your company provides.
- **Kids Café**- Serving dinner to approximately 300 youth on Monday-Friday nights.
- **Holiday Giving**- Hosting a toy drive, donating gifts to Club youth, “adopting” a Club family, and attending a gift-wrapping party at the Club.
- **Homework Help**- Assisting school aged kids with their homework assignments.

For more information, please contact info@bgcworcester.org.

“In my opinion, there is no better investment than the Boys & Girls Club of Worcester. The kids and staff deserve the very best, and Masterman’s LLP is honored to be a partner.”

- Tod Masterman, Masterman’s LLP
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<td>Our Deaf Survivors Center, Inc.</td>
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<td>Paul’s Center Bakery</td>
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Giacomo’s Gourmet Granola LLC
Our Deaf Survivors Center, Inc.
Paul’s Center Bakery
PricewaterhouseCoopers
Spot-On Shows and Exhibits
Target Store #1348
True Value
Worcester Deaf Club, Inc.
Worcester Martial Arts Academy

In Kind
Algonquin High School
Banana Republic at the Blackstone Shoppes
Bartholomew & Company, Inc
Basement Candy
Blanchard Foods Corporation
Boston Celtics
Bowditch & Dewey, LLP
British Beer Company
Calabria Ristorante
Central MA Ruff Riders
CGI
Children’s Smile Coalition
Clark University
College of the Holy Cross
Congregation B’nai Shalom
Country Bank
DDS Group Home
DentaQuest Institute
Digital Federal Credit Union
El Basha (Park Ave)
Enterprise Holdings
Evolution Sports Facility
Evolve Fitness
Flying Rhino Cafe & Watering Hole
GAP Outlet at the Blackstone Shoppes
GH2 Fitness and Training
H & R Block
Hanover Insurance Group Foundation
Harley Mother’s Club
Herlihy Insurance Agency
Karon Shea Modeling Management
Masterman’s LLP
Michael’s Arts & Crafts
National Grid
Number One Stunnas Motor Sports Club
Omni Services
Pakachoag Music School of Greater Worcester
Pleasant Pawn
Quinsigamond Community College—Nursing Program
Ratner Companies
Saint Vincent Hospital
Shooting Stars Performing Arts
Smudge Ink
St. Peter-Marian High School
Stetson School
Table Talk Pies
Texas Instruments
The Hanover Insurance Group
The TJX Foundation
This Week in Worcester
UNUM
Wealth Advisory Services, LLC
Worcester Bravehearts
Worcester Magazine
Worcester Police Department
Worcester Probate Court
Worcester State University
Francis A. &
Jacquelyn H.
Harrington Clubhouse
65 Tainter Street
Worcester, MA 01610

Kids Club at
Great Brook Valley
180 Constitution Avenue
Worcester, MA 01605

Plumley Village
Extension
16 Laurel Street
Worcester, MA 01608

P: (508) 754-2686
F: (508) 754-7635
www.bgcworcester.org