



Dear Friends,

I hope you've been enjoying our weekly *Good News* e-newsletters as much as we enjoy sharing them. Working at the Boys & Girls Club of Worcester fills me with incredible hope for the future because of our great Club kids.

We've all heard the phrase, "*Kids these days...*"

I'd like to finish it this way: "*Kids these days will rule the world with kindness and strength.*"

Why am I so hopeful? For nearly 20 years, I've watched our young people at the Club help one another, challenge each other to grow, and work together to create real, positive change in our community. Here are just a few recent examples:

- Our teens advocated with the City to change our street name from Kilby Street to Boys & Girls Club Way and to install a blinking crosswalk light so younger members can safely cross the street.
- They have worked alongside state and federal representatives to address the dangers of social media.
- And next week, they are hosting a Teen Job Rally to call attention to decreased funding for the Summer YouthWorks program, which provides teens and young adults with meaningful employment at local nonprofits.

These jobs are not a "nice to have"—they are essential. YouthWorks positions build career skills, confidence, and real-world experience. Many of our Club teens and young alumni use their

paychecks to help support their families, purchase school clothing, and contribute toward college expenses.

If you're interested in supporting our kids' efforts to increase YouthWorks funding or helping connect them to summer job opportunities, I'd love to hear from you at lhamilton@bgcworchester.org. You're also welcome to attend the Teen Job Rally on Friday, February 20th at 1:00 PM.

And the next time you hear someone talking about "kids these days," I hope you'll smile and say you know we're in very good hands.

If you want to be part of our Good News, [please consider making a donation to our Club](#).

With gratitude,

Liz

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Liz Hamilton, CEO