Serving Our Community

2019/2020 ANNUAL REPORT

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY
Dear Friend,

We never imagined the unprecedented challenges our organization would face during our 2019-2020 fiscal year. But even COVID-19 didn’t stop your Boys & Girls Club from making positive impacts in our community! Thanks to our dedicated Board of Directors, Community Partners and Staff, we bravely faced every challenge the pandemic brought. We kept moving forward - helping kids, families, and our community.

Your Boys & Girls Club is uniquely positioned to help lead the community through this pandemic. With over 25 years of experience, we’re the largest youth development organization on the Treasure Coast. Our dedicated staff is professionally trained and our Clubhouses are strategically located in neighborhoods with the greatest need. We have strong working relationships with local government, businesses, and community leaders. And, most importantly, we’re blessed with financial support from many funders and loyal donors like you.

With your support, our 2021-2022 fiscal year will also be successful bringing community together to build great futures for thousands of kids – especially those who need us most.

Thank you!

Will Armstead,
Chief Executive Officer

Leslie Kristof,
Board Chair

Our Clubs

WORLD CLASS CLUBS
Safe, attractive and fully equipped buildings.
• Enlarge current Clubhouses to welcome more Club members.
• Renovate Teen Club houses with emphasis on workforce development.
• Create covered outdoor program areas.

TRANSPORTATION
Engage Club members in new experiences
• Give members access to fun, educational experiences they otherwise might not have access to such as the beach, zoo, museums, college and career tours, plays, and concerts.
• Purchase five 15-passenger Club vans and maintain current vehicles.

LIFE-ENRICHING PROGRAMS
Building America’s leaders with Academic Success, Healthy Lifestyles, and Good Character.
• Arts, Programs, Music
• Engage kids in positive activities, to fight crime, alcohol, drugs, gangs, and other risky behaviors.
• Build lasting & meaningful relationships through social and emotional learning.
• Offer STEAM programs that spark imagination.
• Improve physical well-being with sports leagues.
• Open extended hours & weekends.
LIFE ENRICHING PROGRAMS

EDUCATION & CAREER DEVELOPMENT
- Homework help & tutoring offered
- College field trip opportunities
- Scholarship award opportunities
- Money Matters
- S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering Arts, and Math)
- 21st Century Explorers

HEALTH & LIFE SKILLS
- Trauma Informed Care
- Drug and alcohol prevention programs
- C.P.R. Program (Consent, Permission, Respect)
  A specialized teen program with Mindi Fetterman from 'Inner Truth Project'
- Free lunch & dinner
- Free eye exams

CHARACTER & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
- Junior Staff program
- Community service initiatives
- Leadership clubs

THE ARTS
- Music Makers program
- Choir
- Dance
- Drama

SPORTS, FITNESS & RECREATION
- Soccer Program
- First Tee of the Treasure Coast
- Nutrition Education Program
- Yoga
- Taekwando
OUR PROMISE...

HELP YOUNG PEOPLE WHO NEED US MOST

PROVIDE A PURPOSEFUL AND POSITIVE CLUB EXPERIENCE

ACHIEVE ACADEMIC SUCCESS

GOOD CHARACTER & CITIZENSHIP

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

OUR RESULTS...

WE DELIVERED ON OUR PROMISE!

1. Help our kids achieve academic success
2. Good character & citizenship
3. Healthy lifestyles

Help our kids plan to attend a four year college or trade school.
90% of teen members plan to attend a four year college or trade school.

95% of Club members received positive behavior marks in school.

100% of Club members went on a college tour.

1,045 Club members participated in Summer Brain Gain, which reduces the summer slide.

90% of members abstained from cigarette smoking.

92% of teens reported abstention from alcohol within 30 days of the survey.

95% of youth maintained or improved their knowledge of how to avoid negative behaviors.

843 members participated in Day for Kids, an organization wide field day.

Members contributed approximately 20,000 hours of community service worth nearly $450,000 of total economic value.
By The Numbers

Revenue & Expenses

Member Ages
- 5-9 Years Old: 52%
- 10-12 Years Old: 30%
- Teens: 18%

Race & Ethnicity
- African American: 37%
- White/Caucasian: 30%
- Hispanic: 18%
- Mixed: 14%
- Other: 1%

Percentage of revenue
- Program Income: 32%
- Grants/County Revenue: 41%
- Special Events Revenue and Contributions: 20%
- Investments, Foundation and Trust Revenue: 7%
- Total Revenue: $5,191,148

In-Kind: $1,950,335

Percentage of expenses
- Program Services: 88%
- Management and General: 7%
- Fundraising: 5%
- Total Expenses: $5,162,994

88¢ of every dollar goes back to the kids!

'Into The Future' recognized by State Leadership Council

‘Into the Future’ is a year-around workforce readiness program created by BGCSLC to ensure Club members have the skills needed to graduate from high school on time and be well-prepared for work and life. The teens are introduced to a host of activities such as the ‘YESS’ program (Youth Employment and Support Services) through Career Source Research Coast where they worked to improve their self-esteem, employability soft skills, career choices and self-sufficiency. Another unique component was Train Up First, a Social-Emotional Learning program engaging teens in powerful activities to develop their emotional intelligence in order for them to be successful in the work world. During the summer, 156 teens had the opportunity to earn their first paycheck through either a paid intern program through St. Lucie County, local jobs through funding from the City of Port St. Lucie, City of Fort Pierce, or as Jr. Staff funded through Children’s Services Council. They learned workflows in administration, youth development, administrative technologies, facility maintenance and much more. The teens also served on the Special Programs team and learned about COVID-19, PPE, (Personal Protection Equipment) safety and food safety as they helped distribute 275,000 meals and other essentials to families in need throughout the community. “Partnerships with these organizations are a golden ticket for the teens. It will give them such an advantage by learning soft skills and having real-world experiences of speaking face-to-face with business leaders in the community,” said Leslie Kristof, BGCSLC Board Chair and Keiser University Campus President in Port St. Lucie. “Without a doubt, this is the best collection of opportunities that set our teens up to succeed now and, in their future,” said Will Armstead, CEO of BGCSLC. “We provide them with the resources to evolve as young adults but more than anything this gives them hope and a vision of their future.” The ‘Into the Future’ partners included Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County, City of Fort Pierce, City of Port St. Lucie, Children’s Services Council of St. Lucie County, Bank of America, Alleighany Franciscan Ministry, Busch Family Foundation, GL Homes, A&G Concrete Pools, Kyle G’s Prime Seafood, SouthEast Elevator, Roundtable of St. Lucie County.
Amy De Los Santos named 2020 YOUTH OF THE YEAR

The stars came out to shine as Boys and Girls Clubs of St. Lucie County (BGCSLC) hosted their annual Youth of the Year Celebration on February 5, 2020 at Club Talavera in PGA Verano. Five outstanding candidates dedicated months of preparation, coaching and personal development to make their individual speeches to a panel of judges and then to a crowd of over 200 in the hopes of earing the title Youth of the Year. The Judges were faced with a difficult decision. Every candidate rose to the occasion with their firsthand stories of bullying and how they overcame those obstacles through BGCSLC.

Ultimately, Amy De Los Santos a candidate rose to the occasion with the difficult decision. Every candidate rose to the occasion with their firsthand stories of bullying and how they overcame those obstacles through BGCSLC. Ultimately, Amy De Los Santos a member of the Chuck Hill Club, was chosen to represent St. Lucie County and move on to the state competition.

Amy has not let the obstacles she's faced define her. Basing her platform around breaking the boundaries centered around mental health, the St. Lucie West Centennial High School Junior has chosen instead to grow from life’s challenges. Battling with depression for many years, Amy believes that the true meaning of strength is having the power to reinvent your story. She credits the change in her paradigm to her mindset, a healthy lifestyle, Boys and Girls Club and the love of her mother.

The Youth of the Year ceremonies also serves as the organization’s annual board meeting. In between the candidate’s presentations Major Brian Hester of the St. Lucie County Sheriff’s Office was recognized with the Capt. Charles Scavuzzo New Board Member of the Year Award. Leslie Kristof, incoming Board Chair and Keiser University Port St. Lucie Campus President was recognized with the Bill Blazak Board Member of the Year recognition.

The Youth of the Year award recognizes students who work hard, invest in themselves and demonstrate leadership in their schools, clubs and communities. Much of Amy's growth has taken place at the Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Lucie County Chuck Hill location. “It's a place where you can be yourself, and while you’re being yourself, you have other people rooting for you,” she said. “The kids, the staff, everybody in here wants to see you do good. Everybody in here wants to see everybody achieve something.”

Amy stays busy outside of the club science, cooking, weightlifting, and hopes to become a Maternity Nurse. After graduation, she plans to attend Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University Port St. Lucie Campus Junior and hopes to become a Maternity Nurse.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY

Annual Report 2020

For More Information call (772) 460-9918

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY

Annual Report 2020

For More Information call (772) 460-9918
**IN THE NEWS**

**Clubs Kids are Going Places**

One of the biggest missions for our Clubs in 2020 was to provide safe transportation for our Club members access to fun and educational experiences. There are so many life changing adventures our members can experience outside the Club’s walls such as workforce readiness training, college tours, training at the Navy SEAL Museum and so much more. With sponsorships from A&G Concrete Pools, GL Homes, SouthEast Elevator, Andrew & Robin Hunt, Fred & Diane Roesmann, Bob & Leslie Kristof, our members are now criss-crossing our roadways on a path to the great futures we have promised them. During the pandemic we were blessed with donations enough to purchase five 15-passenger vans. These vehicles were used to deliver tens of thousands of meals to families in need in St. Lucie County.

**Summer Camp-A-Thon’s New Home!**

Indefinite school closures. No play dates. Organized sports canceled. As parents and children across the country have settled into a new normal amid the coronavirus pandemic, planning to the summer was uncertain for many St. Lucie County families. Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Lucie County answered the call to hundreds of families. In partnership with the MidFlorida Event Center and the City of Port St. Lucie, Summer Camp-A-Thon opened in mid-May, earlier than usual because of school closures. Following strict guidelines, the Club took over 28,000 sq. ft. of the MidFlorida Event Center and transforming it into 20 different sections to ensure the utmost safety and the ability to offer fun and educational programs to kids from kindergarten through high school. From recycling projects and sewing classes to film making and fitness, the staff created curricula for all ages. The Club understands the economic impact that COVID-19 has had on our community. “Ninety percent of our campers qualify for free and reduced meals,” Will Armstead, CEO. “We already have families who are financially stretched in a good economy, so they really depend on our summer camps to ensure that their children are appropriately fed and looked after.” Summer Camp-A-Thon will continue to take place at the MidFlorida Event Center through 2022.

**OPERATION DINNER TABLE**

Born through need as a result of COVID-19, ‘Operation Dinner Table’ took St. Lucie County by storm during May and June to help families that didn’t know where their next meals would come from. Generous donations from GL Homes and Kyle G’s Prime Seafood, totaling $25,000 for their Operation Dinner Table program, which provided boxes of groceries, including chicken, eggs and fresh produce, every week for Club members and their families. The two-month program also included toiletries and family board games.

“We’re so grateful for GL Homes’ many years of loyal support,” said Will Armstead, CEO. “From backpacks filled with school supplies, to peanut butter and jelly, a playground, a 15-passenger van, and now the donation to help families – GL Homes is truly a great asset to Port St. Lucie and the entire community.”

“GL Homes is here to help the community through our time and resources, to do our part during this pandemic,” said GL Homes Director of Community Relations Sarah Alsofrom. The line for both Operation Dinner Table events started early in the morning and stretched more than ten blocks at the Percy Peek Teen Center on 29th Street in Fort Pierce. The Ken Pruitt Club House served as the staging area for families in the south part of the county to fulfill the same need. “Donating to BGCSLC is a no-brainer because they touch so many families in St. Lucie and already have the infrastructure for getting food to the people in need,” said Kyle Green of Kyle G’s Prime Seafood.

Working together with community partners is the only way to make such an endeavor successful. The partners instrumental in the distribution were Children’s Services Council of St. Lucie County, City of Fort Pierce, Treasure Coast Food Bank, GL Homes, Sword Outreach, Families of the Treasure Coast, City of Port St. Lucie, Frontline for Kids, St. Lucie County, Save our Children, City of Fort Pierce, Treasure Coast Food Bank, GL Homes, and so many volunteers.
Lessons were enjoyed and all the members. I mean I didn’t sleep at that I would not be liked by the members. I was worried lesson plans would be fun for ‘fun person’, or if my designed fun happen instead of special job, so coming into a Club that working with special needs and anxiety filled. I had been My first day was nail biting and what was your role with BGC? How Long have you been with BGC? I believe it’s been 23 years. I got in when the club was young. What was your first day like in when the club was young. I noticed he was again crying found things that showed him to his surroundings because he missed Mommy and he would talk happily about all in-depth. We as Directors back then had to design our own version of lesson plans. I always searched for hours in the library for all kinds of materials to promote fun for our members back then. Nothing was done with technology. It was all about writing it out page after page, then filing it to save for another time. What is an example of how you connected with a Club kid that was in distress? Two years ago, one of my new members came to me from Texas just before Christmas. He was only in kindergarten and he told to tell me that his Mommy is an Angel now that is why he is here. His Grandmother had to come get me because mommy died in a car accident. I was beyond tears at this point. At that moment all I could do was hug him and assure him that we all are here for you and we are going to help you through this. A grief counselor came to our site every month to visit him for about 3 months. He would come in a lot of times the first couple of months crying because he missed Mommy and I would just let him talk about her and let him cry on my shoulder. I would always tell him that his Mommy is still with him and loves him. I suggested he pay attention to his surroundings because she will show him a sign that she is with him it could be a butterfly or a bird, anything that you feel connects her to it. After I had told him that, a couple days went by and he came to me all happy, he said, “Ms. Kathy, Mommy showed me Mommy showed me!” He explained that he was missing her real bad and all of a sudden a butterfly landed on him and he knew that that was her! I about cried! I asked him what did he do, he said I just looked at it and said I love you Mommy and the butterfly moved its wings and flew away! This then became a pattern, he would find things that showed him His Mommy was with him and he would talk happily about all of them to me. So then when Christmas was coming around I noticed he was again crying more frequently and not talking much. So I asked him how everything was going and he said “I can’t do this anymore Ms. Kathy. It’s Christmas time and Santa doesn’t know that I don’t live with my Mommy anymore because she is in Heaven. How will Santa know where I am?” He then started talking about all the things he wanted for Christmas and that only Mommy would know what to do. That’s when I knew I was going to make this happen for him right here at our Club. My staff and I started planning a big celebration for Christmas, we received a lot of toys to give to our members and we combined a party where Santa got right into it by asking him questions about what he had asked for Christmas, He let the member talk to him about his Mommy and how she is an Angel now and then when it was time to give him a present Santa got up from his chair took this member by the hand to the wagon full of toys and said I know you really wanted a big Red Fire Truck and Santa made sure his Elves made one especially for you and handed him this truck and the grin on that member’s face will forever be in my memory. What is one of the funniest things a child has ever said to you? Oh my goodness, when isn’t what the kids say to us on a daily basis funny! I know I just recently had one of my little kindergartener girls say to me in a very nonchalant way, “Ms. Kathy why do you always wear this long coat inside, It’s always cold.” Her reply was “But Ms. Kathy just because you’re old doesn’t mean you have to wear it because I am old and always cold.” Her reply was “What the kids say to us on a daily basis funny! I know I just recently had one of my little kindergartener girls say to me in a very nonchalant way, “Ms. Kathy why do you always wear this long coat inside, It’s always cold.” Her reply was “But Ms. Kathy just because you’re old doesn’t mean you have to wear it because I am old and always cold.” Her reply was “But Ms. Kathy just because you’re old doesn’t mean you have to wear it because I am old and always cold.” Her reply was “But Ms. Kathy just because you’re old doesn’t mean you have to wear it because I am old and always cold.” Her reply was “But Ms. Kathy just because you’re old doesn’t mean you have to wear it because I am old and always cold.” Her reply was “But Ms. Kathy just because you’re old doesn’t mean you have to wear it because I am old and always cold.” Her reply was “But Ms. Kathy just because you’re old doesn’t mean you have to wear it because I am old and always cold.”
Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Lucie County (BGCSC) has always been happy to receive the blessing of others with services, programs, and engagement, but more today they recognize a blessing from within. Will Armstead, CEO of BGCSC, was recognized by providing critical resources to help Clubs implement successful programs and serve more young people.

Preparation Club kids for their futures is Armstead’s personal mission. During his tenure, Armstead and his team secured funding for new programs including art and drum lessons, First Tee golf education, and tutoring through the FL Dept. of Education 21st Century grant. In 2019, he partnered with St. Lucie County, Children’s Services Council, CareerSource, St. Lucie County Roundtable, and the St. Lucie County Economic Development Council to create a Workforce Readiness program for teens ages 13-18. 80 grants were awarded in 2019, 155 teens in 2020. Teens learn basic employment soft skills, Social Emotional skills, participate in Junior Achievement, explore careers during field trip to local businesses, serve internships and some land part-time jobs. Armstead also recruited sponsors for programs including vision and hearing screenings; school supplies, holiday gifts; college tours for Club teens; and free dinner served every day to 2,000 Club kids. He also forged a relationship with Tykes & Teens, a non-profit providing mental health services to children, that trained Boys & Girls Club staff in Trauma Informed Care.

"I am honored to have been chosen the Southeast Region Executive of the Year. This recognition represents the wonderful people around me, who gave me the opportunity to lead, as well as my family who supports my passion to drive transformational change," said Armstead.
“A very little key will open a very heavy door.”

- Charles Dickens

Be the key that opens that door for the thousands of youth we serve every day

Please volunteer your time, talent or treasure with us today

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.

Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Lucie County
3104 Avenue J * Fort Pierce, FL 34947 * 772-460-9918

www.bgcfl.com

Proudly sponsored by