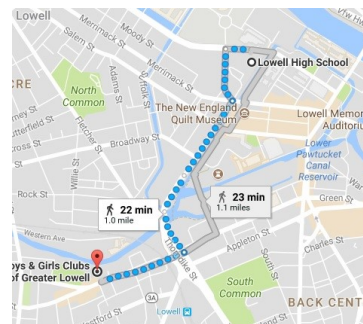




Walking Towards Their Future

It is a one mile walk from Lowell High School to the Boys & Girls Club. **Each day 100 teens walk to the Club from school** so that they can access a brighter future for themselves. Over the course of the year, **over 10,000 miles will be walked towards a brighter future.**

This year, we want to show our teens that we are willing to walk a mile in their shoes. Our goal is for our community to collectively walk 10,000 miles and raise \$10,000 to support programs at the Boys & Girls Club that help our teens (and those members who will be teens one day) make good decisions, avoid risky behaviors, find a safe environment, and access positive role models. While here, they participate in programs designed to help them develop and execute a plan for a brighter future.



Here's how it works:

Gather a team, or you can create your own fundraiser. Decide how many miles you want to walk to create pathways to brighter futures.

For example:

- ♦ 1 mile = One teen walking from school to the Club
- ♦ 5 miles = One teen walking to the Club each day for a week
- ♦ 100 miles = 100 teens walking to the Club each day
- ♦ 250 miles = One teen walking to the Club each day for a year

Set up your fundraising page by going to www.lbgc.org and clicking on "Walking Towards Their Future"



Be sure to share why you are supporting the Boys & Girls Club, and your goal for walking. For example *"I am walking 5 miles in support of a teen who walks to the Boys & Girls Club every day."*

You can pick any date to do your walk, or a timeframe that works for you. "I will walk 10 miles over the next week to show my support for teens in Lowell." Or "Our team's goal is to walk 100 miles in the next two weeks." Your walking can take place wherever you choose. The Club will track everyone who walks as we work collectively towards our goal.

Then, ask your friends, family and co-workers to support your efforts by sponsoring your fundraiser (for example \$1 per mile you pledge to walk). **Funds raised help close the gap between the cost of the programs and opportunities offered to teens and the low \$5 membership fee that teens pay to join the Club.**

Share a link to your fundraising page on Facebook, and/or email the link to friends. The more personal you make your request, and the more you share it, the more likely you are to reach your goal.

Remember, anyone can set up their own fundraising page to support the Club!

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• **For more information contact Angel Brunelle**
• **at abrunelle@lbgc.org or 978-458-4526 x 19.**
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Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell Teen Programs

Your participation in **Walking Towards Their Future** will help ensure that the following programs are available to every teen in Lowell who needs it for just \$5 per year, and help work towards the Club's vision of ending generational poverty in Lowell.

The Career & College Readiness Center at the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell provides early access to job training and education programs creates a pathway to economic self-sufficiency. Our primary goal is that each member graduates from high school with a plan for their future, either through post-secondary education, military service, or employment.



Career & College Readiness Programs

Career Exploration and Matching

- Career Launch
- Leadership Groups
- Workplace Field Trips
- Guest Speakers
- Group Mentoring
- Girl Start
- Teen/Professional Networking Events
- Job Shadowing

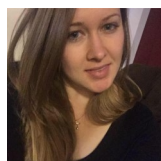
First Job Skills Development

- Diplomas to Degrees
- Career and College Readiness Workshops
- Interview Prep
- Resume Help
- Career and College Research
- Pathways Portfolios with One-on-One Mentoring

Work-Based Learning Experiences

- Volunteer Opportunities
- Junior Staff
- Summer Internships
- Part-time and Summer Employment

Plan for the Future



Michelle

"Without the Boys & Girls Club.....I honestly don't know where I'd be, or who I'd be. I may have become just another statistic,

someone who settled for what they grew up seeing."

Like most of the members at the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell, Michelle grew up in a low income neighborhood where she admits she did not see many examples of "successful adults."

Michelle found that staff at the Club modeled a different way of life and opened her eyes to new opportunities. ***"They had college degrees. They were happy and comfortable. They had a safe place to go at night. I knew one day I wanted that."***

Upon graduating from high school, Michelle became the first person in her family to graduate from college. She is rightfully proud that she has been a practicing Registered Nurse for 5 years now, working at a visiting nursing agency and saving up to purchase her first home.

Nana

Nana describes the day his father left his family to return to his native home in Ghana as a time that *"crushed his spirit."* As a nine year old boy, he found it difficult to muster his former passion for learning and schoolwork.



But at the Boys & Girls Club, Nana says "Staff members taught me that it's okay to make your own choices and to do the right thing...Keystone (Club) allowed me to pursue my desire to improve my community. (The staff) noticed my interest in science and my interest in people. They encouraged me to pursue those interests even when I didn't think it was possible."

Fast forward to today, Nana holds a degree in Neuroscience from the University of Pennsylvania, and is a Harvard fellow conducting research at Mass General Hospital. He credits his success to the opportunities and mentors he found at the Boys & Girls Club, saying:

"Without the Boys & Girls Club, I wouldn't have the chance to permanently affect someone's life. I simply would not be where I am today."