



The Open Door

**GREAT
FUTURES
LOWELL**



Relaxing after school in the Teen Lounge



These young musicians were thrilled to have new instruments donated by the [Music Drives Us](#) foundation

Sally and Zach

"When Zach first started at the Club, he was tough" Nutrition Manager Sally Thayer remembers. "He was my biggest critic, he would tell me 'you're not clicking the milks right, Sally...' and he would stand across the café with his own clicker!" Now Sally and Zach can both laugh about this, as they have known one another since Zach, now 15, was 8 years old. These days Zach helps her in the kitchen instead of critiquing her, and they can talk about whatever might be going on in Zach's life.

Sally is Zach's mentor, part of a program at the Club where each full time staff member meets regularly with one or more of our Club members to provide guidance and support, especially when times are tough. Zach says this about Sally: "I can seriously talk to her about anything that is going on. She is one of the people I trust the most." He is also grateful that Sally encourages him to try



new things at the Club.

"Some people label our kids," Sally says, "but when they walk through the doors, they are all on the same plane – they are all Club members, and that is what we as a staff help them believe – we try to get them to achieve any little goal or whatever they want." Sally goes on, "**From the outside of the Club, people can't see the hard work the kids put in to get to the next goal, to get to the next level, to be better citizens.**" Like Zach's hard work when he stepped out of his comfort zone to coach younger Club members in soccer, and how proud he was when his team won and he was able to give them their awards.

Zach believes he has learned how to be efficient and have a strong work ethic from Sally, skills he hopes will give him a head start when he applies for a job with the [Masshire Lowell Career Center](#) this summer. He notes that Sally, "likes having fun, but you have to do the work. You can talk, but you have to do the work too."

And while Zach truly appreciates all the programs and activities at the Club, when asked what has kept him coming back all these years, he softly but confidently says, "**It has to be the love.**"

Below - Coach Zach proudly poses with the championship FIFA soccer team, Spain



Kara from Kronos chats with teens at our recent Teen/Professional Career Mixer



Club members are recognized for consistently demonstrating integrity in Education programs



Jocasta volunteers at the Membership desk, greeting Club members as they enter

Virtual Volunteers

There are more than twenty languages other than English spoken by Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell members, so translation services have been a focus for our new Enrichment Coordinator, Kady Phelps. Translating important Club forms and documents helps the Club be more inclusive of our diverse community, and helps us serve our members and their families better.

Kady has found that there are people throughout the world are willing to help with the translation of written documents. Our **Virtual Volunteer Program**, through www.volunteermatch.org and managed by Kady, allows volunteers to translate documents for the Club without ever having to set foot in Lowell. Volunteers that live all over the world are willing to help the Lowell community by offering translation services. Some volunteers live in Brazil, Portugal, Madagascar, Egypt, Tunisia, Spain, India, and the



United States. Currently, the program has seventeen Virtual Volunteers, and grows every day. This group has worked on translating Club documents, like our membership application, into Spanish, Portuguese, French, Hindi, Telugu, and Arabic.

Henrique Amaral, Portuguese Translator and Virtual Volunteer, shared that *"[the Virtual Volunteer Program] is an excellent opportunity to use my skills helping other people in an very easy, direct and effective way."* Portuguese translator Mônica França said she volunteered because *"My time is all for doing good, the more I work, the better."* Because of Henrique and Mônica's translation services, we now have membership applications available in Portuguese. Membership Applications have also been translated into Arabic and French, with more translations in the works.

If you or someone you know might be interested in providing translation services for the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell, please contact Kady Phelps at kphelps@lbgc.org.

Boys & Girls Club in the News



Did you know that Executive Director, Joe Hungler, has more than 25 years of experience working in Boys & Girls Clubs, and was a Club member himself in Manchester, New Hampshire? Read about his journey to Lowell in this great article recently featured in the Sun News.

[Click here](#) to read the article

National Volunteer Week

The Club serves over 300 kids and teens each day, thanks in large part to the many volunteers who support the Club by sharing their skills and providing guidance to our Club members. [Here's Lindsey Andella](#), Volunteer Manager, to tell you a bit more about our Volunteer program at the Club.



For more information on Volunteer opportunities at the Boys & Girls Club, [click here](#). Or, contact Lindsey at landella@lbgc.org or 978-458-4526 x 20.

Join the Club Allies

Increase your impact – become a Club Ally today! Just \$15 per month provides a young person with enriching activities like art, music, fitness, yoga, homework help, robotics and more! [Learn more here.](#)

#GreatFuturesLowell



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF GREATER LOWELL

