

The Open Door Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell

WE SEE YOUR HEART

It's the laughter in the café as our members sit down to eat together, and the pounding of shoes across the gym floor. The cheerful greetings and high fives as Club members run through the front doors, and the quiet reassurance a staff member whispers to a young person. Though you may not be at the Club in person, your presence is felt every day.

We see your commitment to our young people and their future.

Why did you choose to be a Club supporter? Is it because...

- You care about kids and teens who aren't your own children and that you may never even meet?
- You know that your support can change the trajectory of someone's life?
- You know that your support can change the entire community?
- You want Club kids to have the same opportunities you did/your kids do?
- You want Club kids to have opportunities you *didn't* have?
- You trust our staff as stewards of your support?
- You know that young people thrive when their community is willing to invest in their future?

No matter why or how you choose to support the Boys & Girls Club, know that we see you, we appreciate you, and we consider you part of the Club Family.

Club Love,

Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell Staff



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NOT JUST ONE OF THE BEST KEPT SECRETS, BUT ONE OF THE BEST VALUES IN LOWELL

Drive past the Boys & Girls Club on Middlesex Street, and imagine what happens beyond those brick walls. What image comes to mind? Do you picture a full sized gymnasium where an intense game of basketball ensues? Or a technology lab filled with computers and electronics? An Enrichment Room, where artwork representing dozens of cultures fill the walls? A small library? A Music Clubhouse with a podcast and recording studio? A fitness center?

If you haven't been in the Club, it may be hard to imagine all that happens here – or where we put all of these spaces (we can't tell you, you need to come visit to find out). We are extremely proud of everything that members have to experience at the Club – all for an annual membership fee of just \$30 per year.

Obviously, the cost to provide programs and services is much more than \$30 per member for the year. Our supporters bridge the gap between the member fee and the actual cost to provide services and programs to our members. But would you believe that **the annual cost to provide these services and programs is just \$1,800 per member?** That is comparable to what many parents would pay for three months of a similar program.

We invite you to learn about a few of our programs and services, and then imagine what one might pay elsewhere to provide a healthy dinner, academic support, mental health services, recreation and fitness along with an abundance of programs and opportunities members have access to at the Club. ■



Nutrition Manager Sally welcomes Club members for a meal.

Are you a current donor? Tell us how we're doing!



Club Member Makarios films in the gym.

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GREAT FUTURES START **HERE.**



WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENS BEHIND THE BLUE DOORS?

At the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell our membership fee is intentionally kept low to reduce the barrier to entry. We also strive to provide the most comprehensive youth program in the area. With program options ranging from competitive sports leagues, art, music, homework help, cultural enrichment, and much more, our members have access to many of the same opportunities their more affluent peers do, and that they might not have access to otherwise.

And our members show that with access to tools, resources and support anyone can achieve their dreams.

Check out some of the impressive things our Club members are doing:

Peace League –For more than 16 years, the Club's summer Peace League not only offers 80-100 teens a safe place to be in the evenings during the riskiest times to be on the street, but also helps participants build life skills such as teamwork, accountability, respect, discipline and leadership.

Peace League is made possible through funding from the Lowell Police Department through the Shannon Community Initiative, and the dedication of our staff, refs and volunteer coaches!



Scan to see all photos from Peace League's Instagram page.

Movie Making – Club members ages 8- 10 in our tech lab brought their own movie making flare to the Club when they wrote, produced, created sets and voiced two stop-motion videos. Their creativity, humor and attention to detail make these short films a joy to watch.



Watch the films here, including "Back to the Post"

Music Clubhouse

With the addition of the Music Clubhouse in 2014, Club members have learned to play instruments like the guitar, keyboard and drums, formed ensembles that perform in the community, have written and produced their own music in our recording studio, and learned mixing and beat making skills. As technology evolves, so do our Music Clubhouse programs. Now, members are also

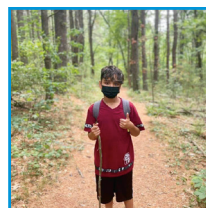
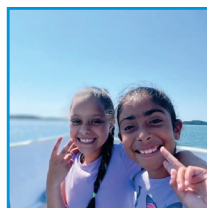
hosting podcasts and directing and producing music videos. The Music Clubhouse offers members a space to explore their creativity and express themselves while at the same time developing relevant, marketable job skills.



Scan here to watch the music video for "Memories," created by members.

Outdoor Adventure Club

People of color and urban youth are vastly under-represented in natural and outdoor spaces, even though access to nature has been shown to provide incredible mental health benefits and increase learning potential. In an effort to expose more young people of all backgrounds to the outdoors, and help them develop a joy for being in nature, the Club started an Outdoor Adventure Club. In just a few short months, 230 members have participated in local outdoor adventures: hikes, learning how to fish, and exploring the Boston Harbor Islands and local beaches and lakes. Their smiles let us know that this was a much needed program addition.



Represent Yourself

"Represent Yourself" is a cultural fashion show organized and executed by Club members, who showcased the history of different forms of fashion, including urban fashion, professional wear, and cultural folk fashion representing Puerto Rico, Cambodia, Greece, Ghana, Dominican Republic, Nigeria,

Brazil, Portugal, Mexico, and Laos. Members created their runway looks, then participated in various sessions of learning how to walk down a runway, pose in front of the camera, and break through fears in moments of confidence. All members who participated -- on-stage and off -- not only learned about their culture and history, but they learned about those of people around them, of the importance of preserving culture and fashion.



Scan here to watch the recording of the entire Represent Yourself fashion show.

STEAM

"The Club has allowed me to recognize my love for Engineering through STEM and Robotics, and now my goal is to become a Mechanical Engineer and study at MIT, Northeastern or UMass Lowell." *Kemigisa, Club Member*

Exploring the world of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) sparks learning and excitement in youth, and can build interest in pursuing careers in these fields. The Club's approach to STEAM includes several in-house programs, field trips and guest presenters. When members are introduced to new skills and interests, see others they relate to pursuing these interests, then get to see spaces where they could work one day - they can start to visualize the possibilities for their future. Learn more by visiting LBGC.org/STEAM



HAVE YOU HEARD? THE CLUB WILL SOON DOUBLE THE NUMBER OF YOUTH WE SERVE!

The Club has been providing a safe space, meaningful programs and caring adult role models for **more than 120 years in Lowell**, consistently changing and evolving to meet the needs of young people throughout that time. In the past 10 years alone the Club has changed dramatically, and while sports and recreation are still popular, programs like music, cultural enrichment, fine arts, and technology such as robotics, coding and video production have been added to offer more opportunities for members to learn and grow. The new Career & College Readiness Center helps ensure that members graduate from high school with a

pathway to a safe, stable future. The Club reduces food insecurity by providing a hot, nutritious meal each evening, and supports members' mental health with a full-time social worker on staff.

Now, **the time has come to safeguard the future** of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell for the youth who need us most. Middlesex Street is still the ideal location to provide services, but the Club is in dire need of significant renovations to improve the infrastructure as well as modernize the program spaces. The demand in the community has outgrown the current size of the facility. With this renovation, we

will be able to accommodate **twice as many** Club members -- when renovations are complete, **each day up to 600 young people will be able to build pathways to brighter futures at the Club.**

The Boys & Girls Club's Board of Directors and Trustees have agreed upon an \$19 million comprehensive campaign, known as "Believe & Become", to renovate and expand the current facility, increase the endowment, create cash reserves and support operations. Visit believe.lbgc.org to learn more about the project, see progress on construction and fundraising.

Know someone who could benefit from our programs? Visit lbgc.org/join.

Are you ready to visit the Club, and see the depth and breadth of programming provided for just \$30/year? Want to learn more about the renovation and expansion project, and see the progress first-hand?

Contact Angel Brunelle at abrunelle@lbgc.org to arrange a tour, or schedule directly using calendly.



Check out the Believe & Become Campaign Video



Scan the QR Code or visit [Believe.lbgc.org](https://believe.lbgc.org) to learn more

