

The Open Door **Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell**



This time of year, most of us have recipes and lists of ingredients needed for holiday meals running through our minds. When we think about the ingredients needed to build bright futures for young people, three main components needed to achieve successful outcomes come to mind.

Staff filled with bright ideas and a talent for connecting with youth.

Young people who are willing to work hard and take advantage of every opportunity that comes their way.

Community members who want to invest in the future of our youth and our city.

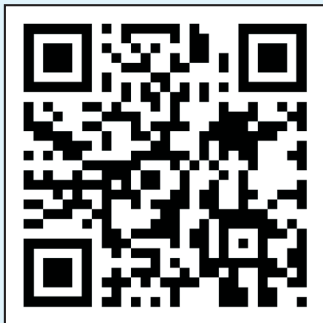
It really can be thought of in such a simple way. Think about what brought you to the place you are today - chances are that there were caring, supportive adults in your life that believed in you, encouraged you and even taught you skills needed to become a successful adult. Perhaps you can even still remember that one special teacher, coach, dance instructor, neighbor or camp counselor that said something to you that was so impactful it changed the way you thought about yourself.

Most likely, hard work, perseverance and determination also brought you success in life - these are qualities that are found in abundance in our Club members. Combined with those supportive adults (Club staff) offering guidance and encouragement, the path to a successful future gets even more clear.

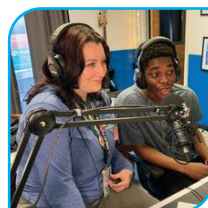
The support of people like you who believe in the young people of Lowell, who believe that everyone deserves every opportunity to achieve their dreams is what brings those talented youth development professionals together with the deserving young people.



Want to show your support for the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell?



Fill out this form and we will send you an exclusive Club Love water bottle sticker!



IT WORKS!

The recipe is simple - the outcomes are extraordinary. Here are some of the results from the recent (2023) National Youth Outcomes Initiative report, based on responses from over 150 Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell members.



96% of Club youth believe adults at the Club care about them.

Why is this important: Social connections with caring adults, especially “SNPA” (Supportive Non-Parental Adults) has been identified as a key component of positive youth development, especially for young people of color, and those living in low income households.



95% report feeling that the adults at the Club believe they will be a success.

Why is this important: Many youth who grow up in poverty remain there due to low expectations from adults in their lives and society. Having adults in their lives who share high expectations for success encourages youth to believe

in themselves and their ability to achieve their dreams, an important step towards ending generational poverty.



79% expect they will have some form of post-secondary education (college, jr. college or trade school).

Why is this important: Education, including finishing high school and completing some sort of post-secondary education, sets young adults up to be financially independent later in life.



78% of Club teens have performed some type of volunteer service in the past year

Why is this important: Only about 30% of teens nationwide perform volunteer work in a given year. Doing good for others promotes a sense of accomplishment which, in turn, boosts self esteem and gives a sense of purpose. Studies have shown volunteering can increase happiness and reduce stress. Volunteering gives you the opportunity to practice important skills used in the workplace, such as teamwork, communication, problem solving, project planning, task management, and organization.

90% of Club members say they regularly avoid risky behaviors.

Why is this important: The desire to look cool, lack of complete brain development and boredom often lead young people to make bad choices and try risky behaviors. These behaviors might include unprotected sexual activity, smoking or vaping, use of illegal substances, and fighting. Being confident in their refusal skills (avoiding risky behaviors) helps young people avoid costly outcomes associated with these risky behaviors that can impact their future.



Sources for the above information



Scan here to learn more about the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell's approach to ending generational poverty in Lowell



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

The Open Door **Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell**

A PEEK BEHIND THE BLUE DOOR



The lights in the building on 657 Middlesex Street click on between 7 and 8 am each weekday. Whether it is someone from the Nutrition team coming in to prep for the day's meal, or Leadership team members setting up for a committee or board meeting, the Club wakes up with a gentle murmur. Soon after, members of the Administration and Development team come in, settle at their desks and tackle their ample to-do lists - always bustling and hustling to make sure that program staff have the support and resources needed to create lasting memories and opportunities for Lowell's youth.

Out in western Massachusetts, the Club grant writer is pulling together information from program staff to create another winning proposal to a local foundation. Executive Leadership Team members review their calendars for the day's meetings - perhaps with donors, or with the General Contractor overseeing the renovation project, or with staff or partners (sometimes all of the above). The Facility Manager makes rounds making sure the building is

clean and fixing those things that inevitably break in the course of the day. The hum of activity around the Club starts to get louder.



Program Managers start to arrive around 10 AM, depending on how late they might be at the Club that evening. They get busy tidying up spaces from the previous day's programs, preparing materials for the upcoming programs and activities, and setting up their teams for success. In the short time they actually sit at their desk, they may write a report for a funder, or an update on one of their mentees. Two days a week, around noon, the program managers meet to plan out future programs, discuss challenges and successes, and plan for how to best serve the youth that are struggling most. Often, trips to visit partners, pick up supplies or donations, or attend community meetings and events take place in these hours before members arrive as well.



All the while, the Nutrition team is in the kitchen, prepping and cooking nutritious meals for over 150+ individuals.

Around 1:45, all staff gather together for "Circle Up" a brief meeting to share important updates, what is happening at the Club that day, and where additional support may be needed. Even before this meeting ends, the first Club members of the day start to trickle through the doors.

Throughout the rest of the afternoon, members enter in small groups dropped off by bus, or individually by foot or other transportation. The membership staff diligently check each member in, after greeting them warmly. The Club's Youth Development Director is on hand to troubleshoot any issues, answer questions and concerns from caregivers, and make the rounds throughout program areas. The group chat app is buzzing with updates on members' whereabouts, requests for a little help and shout outs to members and other staff.

See our full-time staff list and bios here.



GREAT FUTURES START **HERE.**



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF GREATER LOWELL**

Around 4 PM in the cafe, members begin to line up in anticipation of dinner. The line moves quickly and smoothly, both Club members and staff are well practiced in this routine. One by one, they approach the counter and are handed their meal with a smile - next they visit the milk table to collect their milk, fruit and cutlery. It doesn't take long for the cafe to fill with chatter and laughter as they enjoy their meal together. The Club is now electric with activity, each room filled with constant motion.



Even as Club members continue to arrive, pick-up begins. By the time caregivers ring the doorbell, membership staff have already sent out the intercom announcement, paging the Club member(s) to be picked up.

By 6 PM just a few '12 and under' members are left in the building, and while staff work to make sure each one is connected with their adult, Teen Nights are getting started. From 6 - 8 PM, teens can be found in the Teen Center, Gym and Music Clubhouse - and sometimes in the Maker-space or Robotics Room. The sound of basketballs and music thumping give the Club a fresh energy for the evening.

Finally, around 8 PM, the last of the teens leave, and the MOD (Manager on Duty) ensures that the building is empty, lights are off and doors are locked. The Club is now silent, waiting for the next morning to start over

again. Over the course of the day, 23 full-time staff members (and even more part-time staff) plus a variety of volunteers and partners work together to make sure that each member that walks through the Club doors has their best day possible at the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell. ■



CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Approximately 66% of the funds needed to keep the doors of the Club open to over 150 youth per day are donated by individuals as well as local businesses and foundations. Simply said, without that support, hundreds of young people in Lowell would not have access to the safe haven and opportunities available to them at the Club.

Like every good recipe, after the main ingredients (aka the 'hero' of the dish) you add in those things that make the dish extra special.



Join us in helping youth in Lowell build bright futures.

Make your gift to the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell today using the enclosed envelope or by scanning the QR code below.

