



"Learn a new hobby"
"Be nicer to my siblings"
"Get better at amigurumi"
"Learn to draw human anatomy"
"Go to a new place"
"Make more friends"

These are some of the 2024 goals Club members recently shared with staff. Did you reflect on your goals for the upcoming year as well? Are you, like so many others, looking for ways to become a better version of yourself? Here at the Boys & Girls Club, it isn't just our members that are setting lofty goals for the coming year, as a community we are working towards becoming a bigger, even better, version of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell.

If you have followed the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell over the past decade or so, you know that the organization has been consistently evolving to support our Club members' goals. 2023 was a monumental year (read on for details) especially with regards to changes in the facility on Middlesex Street, which will ultimately double the number of kids and teens who can come to the Club each day. As we look towards our 125th year of serving young people in Lowell, the Boys & Girls Club is on the cusp of some of the most exciting changes in it's history.



Click here to read the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell's 2024-2027 Strategic Plan.



New programs and <u>staff positions</u>, <u>the expansion and upgrades to the facility</u> and improved services at the Boys & Girls Club mean that more young people in Lowell can carve out a future for themselves that includes financial stability, healthy relationships, and becoming future leaders of Lowell. Research supports our approach to <u>ending generational poverty</u>, and our young

people have what it takes to break the cycle. And each individual who donates, volunteers, hosts a supply drive, introduces a friend to the Club, attends an event or helps spread the word - **these individuals are helping end generational poverty for youth right now**. The combination of dedicated staff, hard-working young people and an engaged community are the key to realizing this vision.

I invite you to reflect upon the following - How did you originally hear about the Boys & Girls Club? Were you introduced by a friend who was passionate about the mission? Did you or someone you know attend the Club as a kid? Perhaps you attended an event where you were inspired by the young people representing the Club? Maybe you read about us on social media or in a newsletter? What was it that made you want to learn more? What inspired you to open this newsletter?

However you got involved, you are an important part of our future. We hope your goals for the year include continuing and perhaps deepening your involvement with the Boys & Girls Club. It is only by expanding our community of supporters that we will be able to increase our impact by serving twice as many young people. Read on for ways you can make a difference in the future of the Boys & Girls Club.

With gratitude and Club Love,





Joe Hungler Executive Director Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell



Would you like to be part of our future? (check all that apply)

Yes - I'd love to take a tour

Yes - I plan to (continue) supporting through my donations

Yes - I'd like information on volunteering with the Club

Yes - I'd love to talk with someone about getting more involved

Not at this time - please remove me from your mailing list

A look back at 2023

2023 Video Highlights



"Picture their Future" was the theme of the 26th Annual Holiday Auction, a record breaking event in many ways.



The Club's Annual Thanksgiving
Celebration was hosted by the
Terence Mann Complete Player
Foundation.



"My Trip to Ikea" is one of the latest productions from the Movie Making Club. Visit our YouTube Channel for more great videos produced by Club members!

Construction began -

The most noticeable change at the Club can be seen as soon as you cross Thorndike street on Middlesex Street - when you spot the green construction fencing surrounding the Club. C.E. Floyd was hired as the General Contractor that will complete the Believe & Become renovation and expansion project over the next 24 months. Major work has already been done excavating space for the new Teen Center as well as the extended reception area at the main entrance, along with infrastructure work to move the kitchen to the ground floor and more.

Multipurpose space opened -

After 15 years of sitting empty, the former pool was given a new life as a <u>multipurpose space</u>, which will eventually become the Club's cafe where as many as 450 meals will be served each day. Currently the space is used as overflow and shifting program spaces to allow programming to continue while the construction and renovation takes place.

Check out the <u>time lapse video</u> of the transformation of the empty pool to a vibrant Community Center and Cafe.

A Club Food Truck hit the road-

An exciting addition to the Club's Nutrition Program is <u>Club</u> <u>Love on Wheels</u> - a food truck that distributes free food to young people in Lowell. The truck, funded with support from the Greater Lowell Community Foundation and Community Development Block Grants, will be found at different locations throughout the week.

Donate today



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