



# The Open Door

GREAT FUTURE LOWELL



2024 Youth of the Year  
Maureen Onyeneho



## Meet Maureen, a young woman who knows what she stands for

Maureen, a Club member for 11 years, has a resume that would make anyone understand why she was chosen as the 2024 Youth of the Year. A Senior at Lowell High School with a 4.5 GPA, Maureen is Co-President of “Students Making Change”, she participated in the Yale Young Global Scholars Program in 2023, and the Phillips Exeter Summer Program in 2022. At LHS, in addition to Students Making Change, Maureen is also part of the Latin Lyceum Program, the Black Unity Club (Ambassador), Step Team (Captain), International Language Club, Tenacity Club (Captain), Portrait of a Graduate (Ambassador), Digital Media Club, and Pep Club. She can also boast work experience that includes Youth Leader at the Club, cashier at Market Basket, as well as Social Media Manager at Aaron’s Presents and Mentor at Christ Jubilee.

## About the Youth of the Year program:

For more than 70 years, The Boys & Girls Club of America Youth of the Year program has honored and celebrated the nation’s most inspiring teens and their incredible journeys. Stories of outstanding leadership, service, academic excellence and dedication to living a healthy lifestyle have made Youth of the Year America’s premier leadership and recognition program for teens. These amazing young people represent the voice and spirit of hope for America. Inspiring all kids to lead. To succeed. To Inspire.

Each year, one exceptional Club member is selected to represent the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell as our Youth of the Year, serving as an ambassador for our Club as well as a voice for all of our community’s young people. Club members are recommended to enter the Youth of the Year by staff, then participate in a rigorous



application and interview process with members of the community before one of these outstanding young people is named our Club's Youth of the Year.



But Maureen isn't just a high-achiever, she is also committed to making the world she lives in better for others. Maureen notes "through the work I've done with my Students Making Change cohort, I'm able to advocate for marginalized students at my school who have suffered at the hands of racism and bias" She was inspired to join Students Making Change after reflecting on her experience at school as a Nigerian-American. Maureen says "there was a clear disconnect between my culture and my city, and I sought to bridge this gap." She gained a deeper understanding about herself and her aspirations by addressing racism through leading anti-racist seminars.

Maureen says this about her experience with Students Making Change "Working to dismantle racism in my community taught me that making a lasting change can always be achieved if there's someone who dares to dream of it. I am only one person, one voice. Yet, my words have power, and standing up for what is right brings me closer to making the unattainable achievable."

Next, Maureen will now head to the [Massachusetts State Youth of the Year](#) event on May 7th. If Maureen is named the MA State Youth of the Year, she will receive over \$20,000 in scholarships to support her future goals, and go on to the Regional Youth of the Year event.

[Click here](#) to send a message of congratulations to Maureen, or wish her luck at the MA State Youth of the Year event.

[Click here to Congratulate Maureen!](#)

## Program Highlights

### Club teens host a Spring Fling

On Friday, April 5th Club Teens hosted a Spring Fling Dance in the Club's new Community Center & Cafe. The event was planned by Club



teens, and had about 65 teens from around Lowell in attendance. Providing a safe space for teens to be in the evenings is central to the Club's mission and vision, and being able to offer opportunities to gather, have fun, and create memories is a great way to do so.



Shout out to Robbie - aka 'DJ Too Fly' who honed his DJing skills with the help of Professionals DJ Sky Hai and DJ Money (who by day is Music Clubhouse Manager **Julius Sekayi**.)



## Within Reach



Participants in the "Within Reach" program had two exciting trips this month. First they visited local artist Sophie Tuttle, who focuses on Nature Inspired murals. The girls were able to learn about Sophie's process and inspiration.



Within Reach is a program designed to give girls at the Club opportunities to meet and learn about the career paths of women, in hopes of exposing them to a wide variety of potential career paths, and inspire them to think big and follow their dreams.

Next they were off to a Women's Professional Hockey League Game at Tsongas Arena. They even got a shout out on the big screen.



## Community Chef Series

Last fall, the Club started a Community Chef Series with a visit from Hunt, Fish and Feed. The idea of the series is to invite a chef to the Club each month to highlight a new dish or style of cooking during our daily dinner service for Club members. The chef works with Nutrition Manager Sally Thayer to work out the details on what will be served.



This month Chef Enx, the Executive Chef at moonstones visited the Club and treated members to a meal of Moroccan Braised Chicken Leg and Basmati rice with lemon, olives, butternut squash and carrot. The goal of the Community Chef series is to connect members to different cooking styles and inspire them to try new things. The Club is fortunate to have partnerships with several local restaurants interested in participating in the program, and are grateful to these chefs for volunteering their time to help expand the palates of our young people

This is just a small sample of the many programs, activities and services happening at the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell each month. For more updates, be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram, or schedule a tour and come see the Club for yourself!

## Believe & Become Construction Update

While construction on the outside of the building gets a lot of attention (see our real time construction camera to watch the foundation of the Teen Center as it is poured), there is much work happening inside as well. Last month we shared pictures of the space where the new kitchen will be located.

This month - the classroom space for the new Teen Center, which is being built in the former Administration Wing. For context to anyone who visited the old Admin, the end of the video shows the former wall of Joe's old office!

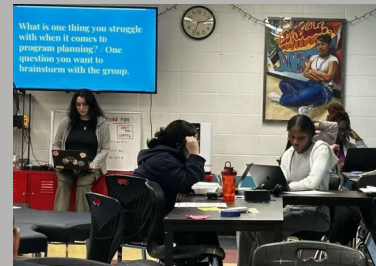


Have you started making plans for summer yet? Perhaps thinking about a beach vacation, signing the kids up for summer camp, or putting together a family road trip?

Here at the Boys & Girls Club, staff are already busy putting together the plans for another wonderful summer for Club members ages 8 - 18. The summer program runs from July 1st - August 16th this year, and the Club anticipates 200 young people will attend the [Summer Program](#) each week.

The program includes breakfast and lunch each day, as well as tons of program options like arts & crafts, sports & fitness, field trips, STEM, special guests and more!

We are excited to share that this summer the Club's Outdoor Adventure Club will invite teens to camp in the White Mountains in July, and host a family camping outing in August. Weekly cookouts are coming back as well as trips on the ferry to the Boston Harbor Islands. This year a pen pal program will also invite Club members to connect with members at other Clubs.



Shown here is are Teen Center Coordinator Jenna Kapp (top) and Athletics & Recreation Coordinator Ajadus Rosa facilitating training sessions for the first time. Jenna and Ajadus, along with one other program coordinator, led training sessions this week as part of the Club's professional development plan and succession planning. As the Club expands, we continue to build pathways not just for members, for but staff members who start as part-time staff with hopes of pursuing a career in youth development.



## Weekly Themes

Each summer, Club staff put together weekly themes and



invite members to participate. The themes encourage creativity and connection and come to life with costumes, activities and even themed lunches.


Check out this Summer's Weekly Themes

In order to make sure that EVERY young person in Lowell has the opportunity to experience a great summer, the [fee for registration is just \\$30 per week](#) and includes everything listed above. This is only possible through the support of community partners and individuals like you who know how important it is for kids and teens to have productive, fun-filled summers making new friends and new memories. If you would like to help Great Summers Start Here [please consider making gift](#) to the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell's summer program today.

Donate today

 Share This Email

 Share This Email

 Forward to a Friend

Boys & Girls Club FAQs

STAY CONNECTED



Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell | 657 Middlesex Street, Lowell, MA 01851

[Unsubscribe brunelle@lbqc.org](mailto:unsubscribe@brunelle@lbqc.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by brunelle@lbqc.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!