

Club partners with Northern Bank to celebrate 125th year



From left: Northern Bank Head of Retail Banking and Vice President Teresa Evangelista; Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell Corporate & Volunteer Manager Justien Martin, Resource Development Director Sarah Chandonnet, and Director of Philanthropy Marci DeCarli; and Northern Bank Retail Services Manager and Assistant Vice President Ana Bojos-Gonzalez. Northern Bank is partnering with the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell for the club's 125th anniversary. COURTESY BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF GREATER LOWELL

BY PETER CURRIER

LOWELL >> The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell is partnering with Northern Bank to celebrate the club's 125th year as it continues to expand its space and programs.

The Woburn-based bank has 12 locations across Middlesex County, and will serve as the anniversary-year partner to sponsor events, special appeals and initiatives to celebrate the legacy of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell.

Club Executive Director Joe Hungler welcomed the news.

"We are thrilled to welcome Northern Bank as our official anniversary partner," Hungler said in a statement. "Their generous support not only helps us honor our past, it allows us to celebrate the present and continue to plan for the future of the Club."

The club has served youth in Lowell since 1900, when it was founded as The Boys Club under the directorship of a National Boys Club field secretary. The mission at the time carried the same spirit the club maintains today: "to help street boys, many of whom would spend their evening on the streets and in bad company, but for the Club," according to the club's history page.

In 1906 the Lowell Boys Club Association came to an agreement with 52 other similar clubs, creating the network known today as the Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

The club moved to its current location in the George A. Demoulas Memorial Building at 657 Middlesex St. in 1973, and in 1995 it began admitting girls as members and changed to its current name. The club today offers after-school and summer programming for children aged 8 to 18, including its music clubhouse, athletics, academic support and leadership groups, among others. Club members are also offered a meal every evening after school.

"Northern Bank is proud to partner with Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell during this important and impactful milestone," Northern Bank Head of Retail Banking and Vice President Teresa Evangelista said in a statement. "We believe in supporting organizations that make a lasting impact, and we're excited to stand with the Lowell community and be part of this celebration."

The 125th anniversary of the club's founding will be celebrated with an open house at the club Sept. 25 from 6 to 8 p.m., where attendees will be given an opportunity to share stories from their time at the club, reconnect with fellow alumni and tour the new Smith Family Teen Center.

The milestone anniversary also coincides with the club's ongoing Believe & Become Campaign, a \$23.5 million fundraiser to upgrade the club building's infrastructure, expand its arts program and expand the facility to double the number of youth it can serve.