



*Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell - March 2026*

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### **Congratulations to our 2026 Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year, Hazel Portillo!**

Hazel has shown incredible leadership, resilience, and dedication throughout her time at the Club and we were thrilled to celebrate Hazel, and all our candidates, at the annual Youth of the Year event. This is just the beginning for Hazel, and we're so excited to see all the amazing things she will accomplish next!

\*Banner photo shows 4 candidates Hazel, Damaris, Darius, Danny, plus Jayden (2025 YOY) and Devonna Williams, Pathways Manager. [See more photos here.](#)



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### **2026 Soup and Mural Competition**



Sally, with support from Club staff, entered a delicious corn chowder with homemade cornbread croutons in the Soup Competition. The competition was tough this year, but Sally's chowder is always number one in our books!

For the Youth Mural Competition, themed "Lowell at 200," our middle school artists earned an Honorable Mention. Way to go!

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### **You're Invited: Annual Meeting 2026**

Join us for the Club's Annual Meeting and Groundbreaking Celebration as we mark an exciting milestone in our Believe & Become Comprehensive Campaign.

Together, let's celebrate the progress we've made, the community that made it possible, and the groundbreaking of our new theater and main entrance: an important step in

bringing this transformational vision to life for the youth we serve.

Light breakfast refreshments provided at 7:30 AM. [Read more and register here.](#)



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## Strategies of Giving Under the SECURE Act

The Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act (SECURE Act) is a far-reaching bill that includes significant provisions aimed at increasing access to tax-advantaged accounts and preventing older Americans from outliving their assets.

Below are just a few of the changes that can affect gifts through retirement plans:

- The RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) age is now 73. However, you can still make a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) at 70½.
- Heirs now have only 10 years to take Required Minimum Distributions. This means the government will get their taxes much sooner. Now is the time for a thorough tax review by your tax expert.
- Retirement plans are taxed at ordinary income rates when left to heirs, but there's zero-tax when you donate such assets to a charitable organization.

So, retirement assets are best left to charity, while less heavily taxed assets would be better to leave to their heirs. If you're considering a gift, consider making it through your retirement plan or a "tax free" gift through a QCD or the IRA Rollover, and leave less taxed assets to the ones you love. [Contact Marci DeCarli, Director of Philanthropy, for more information.](#)

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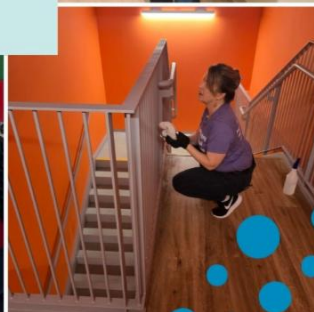


## Community and Corporate Connections

A Heartfelt Thank You To:

- UML Accounting Club – Your annual commitment to the Club's Literacy Day is greatly appreciated!
- Rockwell Automation – Thank you for providing the Club with some much-needed TLC!
- Lowell High School ROTC student volunteers – We are thrilled that you are now interested in joining the Club!

For more information on how you can get involved, please reach out to Justien at [justien.martin@lbgc.org](mailto:justien.martin@lbgc.org).



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