

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

A Year of Growth, **Impact & Inclusion**

Dear Friends and Stakeholders.

I am pleased to report this year has been marked by significant achievements that underscore our commitment to the youth and families of Mercer County. As the President & CEO, I am honored to share our progress and successes with you.

650 youth attended after school programs and 1500 attended club programs throughout the year. Thanks to staff, volunteers and partners we saw a 14% increase in youth's SEL aptitudes and 96% of our families were fully satisfied with their child's club experience. Christina Jones, was promoted to Chief Operating Officer in April. We are excited to see Christina in this role and the organizational progress we anticipate under her leadership. Other achievements include a record number of youth attending our STEM conference, growth of our volunteer program to 400 individuals, and close to 200,000 meals and snacks provided to youth throughout the year.

As we reflect on our accomplishments this year, we also acknowledge the challenges that lie ahead. Economic uncertainties, social/emotional health concerns, and the need for even greater inclusion will continue to shape our path forward. We are committed to advancing our operational sustainability, and expanding our diversity, equity, and inclusion. Also, enhancing the well-being of youth, their families, and our employees by continuously exploring growth opportunities through expansion, strategic partnerships, and program development.

In closing, I would like to express my gratitude to our employees, volunteers, families, and stakeholders who have



played an integral role in our journey. Together, we have made meaningful strides in Growth, Impact, and Inclusion and I am excited about the possibilities that the future holds for our organization. I am confident that our shared vision will drive us to even greater heights in the coming years. Thank you for your unwavering support.







"W/E" - Where Empowerment Finds a Home!



o support our empowerment & inclusion efforts we launched our Womens Empowerment Group, led by women of Greater Mercer County who are dedicated to fostering connections and opportunities for Club girls and young ladies. The journey began in May, with our inaugural Women & Girls Conference. This unforgettable day brought together over 60 bright young ladies from our Middle School & Teen Programs with 30 incredible women, eager to share their wisdom and experiences.

A panel of women graced our stage, engaging in candid conversations and answering thought-provoking questions from girls. It was an

electrifying exchange of ideas, dreams, and aspirations that left a lasting impact on everyone present. The event transformed into a thrilling night of speed networking and a sumptuous dinner, forging connections that would fuel dreams for years to come. The 2nd Annual Women & Girls conference is slated for March 22, 2024!

To get involved you can either join our W/E committee or get on our list as a volunteer for one of our upcoming events, email Ashley Nwankwo at anwankwo@bgcmercer.org to embark on this inspiring journey.

Interview with Christina Jones, Chief Operating Officer



When did you join the BGC and in what role?

In September of 2011 as a Site Coordinator supervising an offsite afterschool program and I've had several roles within the club.

What was your work experience prior to then? In the previous 12 years

I held several positions within the Mercer County Nonprofit sector.

Why are you excited about your new role?

I see this as an opportunity to contribute to the growth of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Mercer County, as I am empowered to drive positive change on a larger scale.

I want to continue working on bridging the gap between families, schools, and the community. Every young person should have access to a wide range of opportunities.

What do you want to accomplish in the next couple of years?

I'm passionate about fostering a holistic approach to programs and want to expand our program opportunities and resources well beyond traditional afterschool programs and summer camps. I envision our community centers as vibrant hubs, collaborating with other organizations to provide support for housing needs, food access, mental health services, athletics, and more.

What do you like best about working for the Club?

That it often doesn't feel like work at all. The atmosphere within our organization is warm, friendly, and inclusive so that it's more like being part of an extended family than a workplace. Also, the sense of community that exists among the children we serve and the dedicated staff is truly special.

Club Impact by the Numbers

12 After School Locations

Mercer County Schools served through ASP

650 **Youth** served in After School

Camp locations

450 Youth served in Summer Camp

Average grade advancement in LA Skills

14% **Increase** in Social Emotional Learning Aptitudes

1,801 Low Cost Bikes into the community

FOOD SECURITY

175,800 Meals/snacks provided

1,440 Food bags distributed

400 Core Volunteers, Up by 33%

Teen Internships provided

\$18,000 College Scholarships awarded



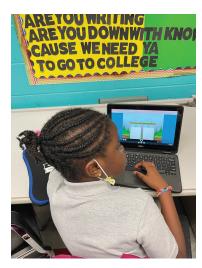






Reading for Success

eading for Success is one of the key mission driven programs the Club implements throughout the year. Post COVID student test scores were down throughout the country, even more so for at risk youth. Trenton test scores dropped by 50% from 20% grade level proficiency to 10%. Reading for Success encourages reading



through book distributions, uses Lexia software for improving language art skills and reading comprehension, worksheets and 1:1 tutoring to help student overcome problem areas. Club youth this past year on average moved up 1.3 grade levels in LA skills through participation in the Club program, while

other students declined. Key supporters of this program are 21st Century, Sands Foundation, John Ben Snow, TD Bank, and Curtis W. McGraw Foundation.

Princeton eBikes

n their second year of operations, this store has the largest selection of e-bikes in Central NJ. Run all by volunteers, the proceeds from sales are donated to the Boys & Girls Club. They are located in the Lawrence Shopping Center. Since opening they have donated \$195,000 to the Club. https://princeton-ebikes.com



First Robotics Program

his summer, the 5th grade students at our Spruce Street facility participated in the FIRST Robotics program. Students worked on the FIRST ENERGIZE season program presented by Qualcomm and Superpowered to learn how energy is generated, stored, and distributed. They were exposed to a set of core values that



promote gracious professionalism and cooperation. Students practiced coding and design skills and had tremendous fun working on additional innovative group projects.

First Robotics provided an equipment grant to facilitate this program. The Club hopes to continue and expand the program this coming school year and attend a First Robotic competition. To volunteer to support this program, contact Debra Lawrey at dlawrey@bgcmercer.org

Social Emotional Learning

ocial Emotional Learning (SEL) is another key outcome of Club programming. Youth with higher SEL aptitudes do better in school, with relationships, in the workplace and in life. The Club infuses the SEL philosophy throughout all of our programs, and also implements specific curriculums throughout the year. We use a tool



called a DESSA assessment to help measure each youth's SEL aptitudes throughout the school year. On average Club youth improve their SEL aptitudes by 14% each school year. Otsuka Pharmaceutical is the key funder to one of our SEL programs.

Building a Flourishing Volunteer Network

n 2022, we embarked on a mission to bolster our volunteer network, recognizing its pivotal role in our strategic plan. With the appointment of Ashley Nwankwo, the Director of Volunteer & Community Engagement in May 2022, our volunteer program began to flourish. Our belief in the indispensable value of positive adult role models led us to invest in this expansion. In the first year, we introduced online applications and streamlined background checks to simplify onboarding, making it easier for volunteers to join our cause.

We celebrated our dedicated volunteers throughout April with appreciation posts and capped off the month with our inaugural Volunteer Appreciation Brunch. Looking ahead, we're excited to launch a state-of-the-art volunteer management system, set to revolutionize how we engage, onboard, and measure our volunteers' impact. This innovative program will spotlight the unwavering dedication of our volunteers, ensuring their contributions are recognized and celebrated.

As we continue this journey, we're grateful for our passionate community of volunteers who share our vision for a brighter future. Together, we're weaving dreams into reality, forging pathways of hope and opportunity for the young minds in our care. We invite you to be a part of our mission and make a meaningful impact in the lives of young individuals. Join our dedicated team of volunteers today and help us shape a brighter future together!

Connect with Ashley Nwankwo at anwankwo@bgcmercer.org





Volunteers supporting our Bike Exchange in Ewing

College & Career Fair

ver 125 teens and 50 presenters attended our annual College & Career Fair. This event is a key component of our College Access Program. Key funders are Bloomberg, BlackRock, Church & Dwight, PNC Bank & Bank of America.



Food Program

hen school is out, many area youth struggle with food security. The Club provides a snack & meal program at our after-school sites for 650 youth, and a breakfast, lunch and snack program at our summer camp sites for 450 youth. This past year the Club provided 117,000 after school snacks/ meals during the school year, and 58,800 snacks/meals

during the summer.



New this year was a partnership with Mercer Street Friends and Makers Place to hold a once-a-week food pantry and diaper distribution at our Centre Street Community Center. This started in March, and we distributed 1,440 food bags and helped 270 families with diapers. This new effort is led by volunteers each Monday mid-day. If you'd like to support this effort, contact Joselin Arana at <u>jarana@bgcmercer.org</u>. Key funders are Wawa, Bonner Foundation, State of NJ, and Northfield Bank.

Debra Lawrey, STEM & Career Services Director

My goal for the BGC STEM program is to inspire every student to gain a deeper understanding of how the world works. My hope is that students will use methods of scientific inquiry in all subject matters to gain awareness of the impact they have on everything and everyone that they encounter.

The best part of my job is being able to learn alongside future leaders. I truly enjoy witnessing the "ah-ha" moments during a lesson when students make the connection between an activity and a real-world situation.

Being a minority female, I have faced many challenges, especially as a young college graduate.

Twenty years ago, there weren't many minority females seeking degrees in STEM majors. There were even fewer being offered STEM jobs with an appropriate salary. I credit much of my success in gaining experience to the internships that I was awarded as a high school and college student. Today, we see a much more diverse and inclusive STEM environment.

The BGC STEM program is continuously growing. In the near future, we will expand our efforts by opening a Makerspace for hands-on STEM tools, like Makey Makey, 3D printing, LEGO Robotics and more.

We are always interested in working with new partners, corporate, educational, and volunteers that would like to support BGC STEM. Contact me at <u>dlawrey@bgcmercer.org</u>. Key funders Comcast.



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After School Expansion

ost COVID the Club opened (8) new after school sites to provide quality and affordable after school care for working parents. Five of these sites were in Trenton Schools, and three were in Ewing. This enabled the Club to grow our after school program from 300 to 650 over the past two years. With our average monthly co-pay for parents being only \$50/month, it requires the Club to raise more than \$1.2 million dollars to ensure we don't turn any child away based on their family's ability to pay. Key funders of this program are 21st Century, Mercer County, Sands Foundation, Mary Owen Borden Foundation, and Next Gen.



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Teen Awards

ach year the Club recognizes and awards Club teens with post-secondary scholarships towards college and career pathways. This past June 18 teens were awarded \$18,000 in scholarships. Funds are provided through individuals who have set up endowment funds to support the Club's teen programs and provide annual scholarships for teens.



Latino Outreach

s part of the Club's strategic plan we hired Joselin Arana as our Community Outreach Coordinator to help increase the percentage of Hispanic & Latino youth in Club programs. We also implemented our annual Hispanic-Latino Heritage Celebration each September. To get involved in this project, connect with Joselin at jarana@bgcmercer.org.



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Legacy Society

hen David & Allison Howe were preparing their financial and estate plan, one of the key aspects of that plan was how to support the organizations and causes they cared about most. In doing so, they made the Boys & Girls Club a beneficiary in their estate, and thus became members of the Club's Legacy Society.

"My parents raised me to believe that education is the great equalizer and the key to future opportunity. Because the Boys & Girls Clubs of Mercer County helps underserved children realize their full potential, we decided to leave a significant gift to the Club to create our legacy in our local community. We will continue to change the world for the better, one life at a time". —David Howe



The Legacy Society is a group of individuals who have named the Boys & Girls Club in their estate plans, or have made a planned gift towards the Club's endowment. The Club's endowment supports special projects at the Club and helps fund Club programs.

To find out more about the Club's Legacy Society and options for making a planned gift, visit the Club's website at: https://www.bgcmercer.org/bequest-estate-planning

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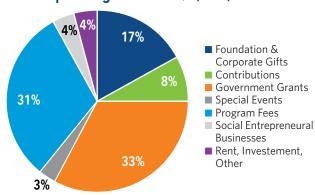
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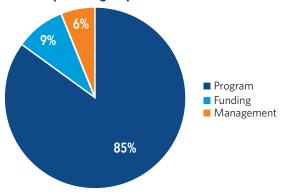
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2023 Operating Revenue: \$6,907,293



2023 Operating Expenses: \$5,833,815



Year in Review

	FY 2023	%	FY 2022
Foundation & Corporate Gifts	1,141,051	17%	736,795
Contributions	542,807	8%	449,806
Government Grants	2,255,736	33%	1,365,092
Special Events	207,800	3%	334,562
Program Fees	2,164,763	31%	1,772,989
Membership Dues	29,103	0%	38,708
Social Entreprenuerial Businesses	263,924	4%	227,705
Rent, Investment, Other	302,109	4%	49,343
Total	6,907,293		4,975,000
Salaries, Taxes, Benefits	3,792,144	65%	3,226,457
Equipment & Supplies	643,968	11%	425,353
Contractors	373,934	6%	348,108
Special Events Costs	64,912	1%	34,625
Utilities, Phones & Repairs	155,923	3%	205,125
Transportation	258,032	4%	223,743
Insurance	165,919	3%	166,333
Dues, Training, Rent, Postage, Misc	86,183	1%	77,870
Depreciation	292,800	5%	309,657
Total	5,833,815		5,017,271
Net Operating	1,073,478		(42,271)
Enusuring Success Campaign PPL	279,539		695,480 464,875
Endowment Gifts	2,192,076		3,332,418

Chess Club

n its second year, this volunteer driven program grew to a second site and over 75 chess players. To volunteer this school year to help us grow the program to a third site contact Ashley Nwankwo at anwanko@bgcmercer.org



What Parents Are Saying...

of parents said their child improved their **76%** reading skills from the Club.

said their child improved their conflict resolution skills from the Club's social emotional learning program.

of parents saw an overall improvement in 81% their child's behavior due to participation in the Club's after school program.

of parents rated the Club's after school program as good to excellent when comparing it to other youth program providers.



212 Centre Street Trenton, NJ 08611

Teen STEM Conference

BGC annual Teen STEM Conference reached capacity of (250) 5th to 9th graders this year. Corporate partners and volunteers present various STEM related hands-on workshops and career panels. Key funders are Kentfields Foundation, BMS, Catalent, MunichRe & Bloomberg.



Upcoming Events

November 4 Run for Club Kids

December 5 Annual Chair Reception

January 25 Youth Art Show

March 1 Soaring to Great Futures...

Featuring the Youth of the

Year Finalists

March 22 Women & Girls Empowerment

Conference

May 21 Nine and Dine Golf Outing

Spring Club Chef Challenge

May 30 Teen Awards





Check Out All Club Events

Club Chef Challenge

ach Spring youth from our after school cooking program participate in our Club Chef Challenge. The program teaches 650 youth about nutrition, healthy eating and learning how to cook. Key funder is Novo Nordisk.

