



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF LAWRENCE**

FALL 2023

CLUB NEWS

**BACK TO
SCHOOL!!**

BACKPACKS FOR ALL

To many of our members, receiving a new backpack means a lot. It is more than just a vessel to carry books and supplies; it symbolizes preparedness and an opportunity for success.

Having a new backpack filled with essential supplies is a source of pride and motivation and a reminder that they have the support of their community for our members as they embark on their educational journey. Going to school with a clean backpack, new pencils, markers, notebooks, and more makes children feel prepared and ready to tackle the new school year. Many of our families face challenges when purchasing school supplies, and thanks to wonderful donors like you, we can prepare our kids for success!

Thank you for your continued support and for putting smiles on our kids' faces! Cheers to a safe, fun, & educational school year.



Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

After a busy summer session, we started accepting registrations for the new school year. At only two weeks into this process, we've already enrolled 900 youths. This number represents a record-breaking pace and has created many resource challenges as we are seeing up to 500 members daily. The demand for our services appears higher than ever before. We are already serving more than 300 meals nightly, and every corner of our building is buzzing with activities.

While we will continue to offer many of our time-tested programs such as the New Balance Healthy Living Club or Academic Basketball this fall, we are very excited to roll out a new workforce development initiative aimed at middle and high school students. This project will provide career exploration, soft-skills training and paid internship positions, among many other offerings. The program's ultimate goal is to ensure that every member graduating from high school and the Club will have a plan to either go on to college, learn a trade or join the military. We are looking forward to the challenges.

Gratefully,
Markus Fischer

Summer Field Trips!

BGCL summers are full of joy and excitement, and although this summer was rainy, the staff still managed to make it enjoyable and memorable for our members!

The kids ventured into Boston a few times this summer and explored all it has to offer. Going into the city is a treat for most of our kids, and through the popular Codzilla speedboat excursion, they could see the city and all its sights through a different lens. Afterward, they stopped at Fenway and enjoyed an exciting Red Sox game with peanuts and crackerjacks.

On warm sunny days, some kids rode thrill rides and water slides at Canobie Lake and Water Country, while others ventured to the Addison Art Gallery at Phillips Academy to immerse themselves in art and culture.

The BGCL is not only here to educate but also to create unforgettable moments for our members. We want them to look back on these adventures warmly, knowing their summer was filled with joy, discovery, and friendship!

For questions or comments, contact:

Chief Development Officer Paul Grand Pre
978-683-2747, ext. 118
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FALL 2023

UNLOCKING EDUCATIONAL POTENTIAL WITH KHAN ACADEMY



In our ongoing mission to empower our youth and provide them with the tools they need to succeed, we are thrilled to shine a spotlight on a new extraordinary educational resource at the Club. Khan Academy is an online learning platform that offers learning opportunities for all ages, backgrounds, and abilities. Its learning process is personalized to each child and adapts to their needs.

This summer, our Assistant Director of Education, Amy B., rallied a few 5th graders to practice math. “The purpose is to reinforce math skills and keep the kids engaged before school,” she said. For about 30 minutes, the kids studied mathematics, and received incentives, such as gift cards, for reaching certain milestones.

At the BGCL, we do not believe learning stops when the bell rings, and with the program’s success, it will continue into the

fall year. Collaborating with our Director of Athletics, Chris V., Amy will create a schedule for the Academic Basketball 5th-grade boys team.

Khan Academy goes beyond academic subjects. It encourages kids to explore their interests, ask questions, and become lifelong learners. We are excited to see how well this program works and how it will affect our members for the better!

THE CLUB’S NEWEST TEAM MEMBER



We are thrilled to share some fantastic news with all of you—our BGCL family has grown stronger by adding a new team member who will play a crucial role in supporting our young members. Please join us in welcoming our new social worker, Juneidy!

Juneidy came to Lawrence as a young girl from the Dominican Republic. As a compassionate individual, she dreamt of using her talents to make an impact and difference in the lives of youth.

As a first-generation college student at UMass Lowell, Juneidy initially studied Criminal Justice, intending to help juvenile youth, but after a recommendation from a family friend, she transitioned to social work. Now, she has set her sights on assisting Lawrence youth and their families with any challenges they may face.

“I am excited to collaborate with others at the Club and get to know the kids and their parents. I want to remind them that they aren’t alone and that we are always here to help,” she said.

We are excited to have Juneidy on board as a part of our BGCL family! Our social worker is a valuable resource for Club members and their families. She will work closely with our youth to provide emotional support, guidance, and resources to help them overcome obstacles and thrive.

The Heritage Club

What is the Heritage Club?

The Heritage Club is an association of friends of the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence who seek to ensure that the future needs of our youth are met by including the Club in their estate plans. This planning might include a will, beneficiary of a retirement account, a life insurance policy, a charitable gift annuity, or a trust.

A Foundation for the Future

Your support through a planned gift will ensure that future generations of our children will have the opportunity to reach their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible citizens. Any deferred gift qualifies you to become a member of the Heritage Club and enables you to leave a lasting legacy to perpetuate your commitment to the mission.

How Can I Become a Member?

Joining The Heritage Club is easy! Simply communicate your intentions by contacting Paul Grand Pré, Chief Development Officer, at pgrandpre@lawrencebgc.com, or 978-683-2747, x118, so we may gratefully acknowledge your generosity in supporting the long-term success of the BGCL.

HOLIDAYS: A TIME FOR GIVING

At the BGCL, we firmly believe that holidays should be a time of joy, unity, and giving. Most of our families face many challenges, resulting in our members relying on the Club for a memorable holiday experience. This holiday season is no different.

As usual, we will be hosting our annual Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas celebrations, and we need your help to ensure their success! These events are times of togetherness and celebration here at the Club, and our goal is to make them unforgettable for our young members.

With Halloween around the corner, we are preparing for a spooktacular celebration filled with costumes, games, candy, and prizes! We are seeking a few judges to help pick the scariest, most creative costumes.

We also need a few helping hands to help serve our members for our traditional Thanksgiving feast, and our biggest event of all, our Christmas party. We need all the help we can get! With gift-wrapping, donations, serving, and more, your presence will spread holiday joy.

Your support has always been the driving force behind our ability to create memorable holiday events. As we inch closer to the holiday season, let us unite as a caring and compassionate community to brighten the season for our members. If you or anyone you know is interested in volunteering, please contact Suzanne Fischer at sfischer@lawrencebgc.com or 978-683-2747 x117. We are immensely grateful for your continued support and look forward to celebrating the holidays with you!



A SAFE PLACE FOR TEENS: SUMMER NIGHTS!

After the younger kids headed home, our teenage members could come to the Club for an evening of fun! This summer, the Club was able to host our Summer Nights program every Tuesday and Thursday from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Summer Nights, supported by the Department of Conservation and Recreation, is a program for teens aged 13-18 where they can spend a couple of nights a week hanging out and having fun in a safe and enjoyable environment.

Our staff prides themselves on providing a haven where our teenage community members from Lawrence and neighboring towns like Andover, Methuen, and Haverhill can come together, socialize, and stay safe during warm summer evenings. This program was built to create a time and space where teens could build friendships, engage in positive activities, and have a good time.

Javy L., aged 14, said, "The Summer Nights grant is great for the kids and me from Lawrence. It gives us a safe place from the streets."

Unfortunately, many of our youth face the pressures of an inner city, but with this program, we have the opportunity to expose them to a world outside of what they know. The kids went on boat rides with Greater Lawrence Community Boating, ventured to Fenway Park for some Red Sox games, and watched the BIG3 Basketball Tournament at TD Garden!

Programs like these are why we do what we do at the Club. Our goal is to ensure our members' safety and provide them with new experiences and, of course, a good meal.





BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF LAWRENCE

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UPCOMING EVENTS

College Fair
Wednesday, October 11

Halloween Party
Friday, October 27

Thanksgiving Dinner
Tuesday, November 21

Giving Tuesday
Tuesday, November 28

Christmas Wrap Day
Tuesday, December 19

Christmas Party
Wednesday, December 20



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