

Investing in a

FOREVER CHANGE



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF PROVIDENCE



Creating a FOREVER CHANGE

Transforming the Wanskuck Clubhouse

Investing in our children means investing in spaces where they are safe, supported, and able to thrive. Today, thanks to generous supporters, that transformation is underway.

With \$10.8 million raised, construction has begun on the Wanskuck Clubhouse, one of our flagship buildings and an important neighborhood-anchor on Branch Avenue. Phase I is already underway, updating the building's core infrastructure and expanding opportunity for hundreds of young people.

Phase I (Underway): Building the Foundation for the Future

This first phase focuses on creating a safe, modern, and opportunity-rich environment for youth:

- [Workforce Development Innovation Center](#) – That will provide career training, certifications, and college readiness for 500 teens annually, while also serving disconnected youth up to age 24 during the school day.
- [A Healthier, Safer Building](#) – Critical upgrades to HVAC, electrical systems, accessibility, and layout will create a secure, welcoming space where young people can focus, grow, and belong.
- [Modern Learning Environments](#) – New classrooms and training labs designed for hands-on learning, skill-building, and real-world pathways to employment.

This work is an investment in the future of Providence!

Phase II: Completing the Vision

To fully realize the potential of the Wanskuck Clubhouse, we are now raising an additional \$6,000,000. Phase II will bring the building to life expanding access, deepening impact, and ensuring no young person is turned away:

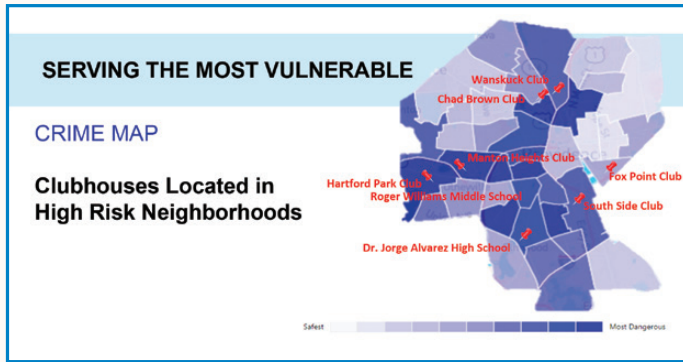
- [A State-of-the-Art Teen Center](#) serving 300 middle and high school youth during critical after-school hours
- [An Expanded Childcare & Education Center](#) doubling capacity from 100 to 200 children per week
- [Revitalized Recreational Spaces & Pool](#) providing safe, active, and engaging environments for children and teens

Finishing What We Started

With your support, the Wanskuck Clubhouse is becoming a place where every child, no matter their circumstances, has the opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed.

Building on a STRONG FOUNDATION

Operating for more than 160 years, BGCP is the oldest continuously operating Boys & Girls Club in the United States. BGCP's eight sites are strategically located throughout the capital city in areas where kids need them most, including buildings in the Wanskuck, Fox Point, and South Side neighborhoods of Providence, as well as three public housing sites and two schools.



Our mission: BGCP enables and inspires children and youth, especially those from diverse or difficult circumstances, to reach their full potential as productive, responsible, and healthy members of their community, the State of Rhode Island, and the Nation.

Who we serve: BGCP serves more than 4,000 diverse young people organization wide.¹ More than eight out of 10 children who attend

¹Based on pre-pandemic data.

the BGCP live in poverty. Two-thirds are from single-parent homes and 20 percent are in foster homes. One third are multilingual/English learners and are from first generation families living in the United States.

What we do: BGCP provides a safe and secure environment for help with homework, childcare, mentoring, athletic activities and educational and career development programs. BGCP serves 100,000 meals and snacks each year.

BGCP's **formula for impact** is built on three pillars — **academic achievement, a healthy lifestyle and good character**. A national study found that every dollar invested in Boys & Girls Clubs returns \$9.60 in earnings and cost savings. Outcomes include:

Improved grades - regularly attending Club members ages 12-17 outperform their peers nationally on school tests.

Increased interest in STEM careers - 12th-grade Club members are twice as likely to be interested in a STEM career as 12th graders nationally.

Reduced unhealthy/risky behavior - 90 percent of Club ninth graders report abstaining from alcohol compared with 77 percent nationally.

Increased physical activity - 31 percent of Club girls ages 12-15 are physically active every day, compared with 23 percent nationally.

Improved social-emotional learning - Boys and Girls Club approaches significantly reduce peer violence across grade levels, school environments and demographic groups.



Understanding TODAY'S REALITY

Young people are our capital city's greatest resource. Since the pandemic, the need to bolster support for our children could not be more critical. For many vulnerable families, the pandemic revealed or further eroded access to food, education, a sense of safety, social and emotional well-being, job-training and employment opportunities.





In every area, BGCP's proven formula for impact can help.

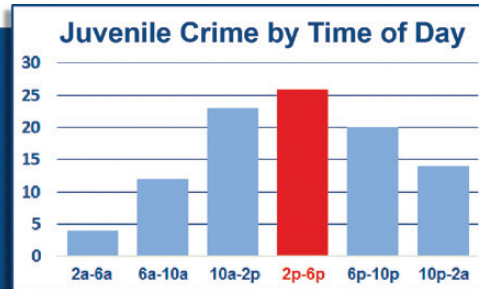
Food and Basic Needs - In 2025, food insecurity in Rhode Island reached the highest level recorded in twenty years with one in three households at risk of hunger. Food insecurity is linked to serious physical, psychological, emotional, and academic problems and can interfere with children's growth and development. This is why BGCP serves more than 100,000 meals and snacks each year, and distributed 135,000 meals to families during the height of the pandemic. BGCP also provides nutrition education and cooking

programs for youth and families. Parents and caregivers report that participation in the Club's food programs ensures that their children are fed even when caregivers need to work non-traditional hours.

Safety and Security - A sense of safety and security is paramount for our youth. We know that the after school hours between 2-6 p.m. are the prime time for juvenile crime in Rhode Island. In recent months, Providence has seen a surge in violence including gang-related crimes. Youth typically begin hanging out with gang members at age 12 or 13 and are at higher risk of joining a gang if they live in communities where they feel unsafe. BGCP offers our youth a safe alternative to violence and gang involvement. In 2021, more than 98% of BGCP members reported that they felt safe at the Club and could talk to staff if they had a problem. 71% felt safer at the Club than other places where they spend time.

Quality Afterschool Programs:

-  Reduce Crime
-  Boost Academics
-  Improve Behavior
-  Lead to Healthier Habits
-  Save Money





Meeting Kids' Needs

BGCP staff are always on alert to make sure that kids are safe, healthy and have enough to eat. During a recent morning activity, one club staff member asked a group of elementary aged children to share their highs and lows for the day. One 9-year-old girl said, "My high is this snack we are eating. My low is that we don't have food in our house." During the school week this young student and her four siblings ate breakfast, snack and dinner with BGCP, and lunch was provided at school. But when the Club learned that food was tight at home, BGCP immediately sent food, gift cards and hygiene items home to carry the family through a difficult time when they really needed it.

Understanding TODAY'S REALITY

Social and Emotional Wellbeing - In 2025, RI Kids Count reported that one in five children in Rhode Island had experienced anxiety, alcohol/drug dependence or depression. For children living in poverty the rates were even higher. We know that when members feel safe at the Club they are less likely to use prescription drugs, yell at peers when there is a problem, or hit another person. BGCP's formula for impact enables youth to practice and build social-emotional skills through participation in Club programming and interactions with caring adult staff. Essential skills include problem solving, perseverance and key workforce skills. The most recent national youth outcomes member survey found that BGCP has demonstrated positive improvements in social-emotional learning and more than 90% of BGCP members report feeling that adults care about them and listen to them at the Club.

“I was stuck behind a wall of isolation until I found my second home at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Providence. I was able to grow as a person and break through that wall finding freedom.”

- Lyamaris

Academic Success - The latest scores on the Rhode Island Comprehensive Assessment showed that every district in the state saw declines in student performance during the pandemic, and steeper losses were found in urban districts and among students of color. The good news is that during this time, children who participated in the BGCP/BelExcel Summer Program stayed on grade level and returned to school 2.5 months ahead of their peers in math and 2.0 months in reading. For students in BGCP's Princes to Kings program, after 4 years of programming, 100% of participants graduated from high school and all are attending college.





The sky's the limit

A BGCP Teen Club member for four years, Jolade Oshinkanlu graduated as valedictorian at Alvarez High School. She and her four siblings came to Providence from Nigeria. "At first, I felt like an outsider. School was very tough for me," she said. But Jolade credits Miss Chelsea in the BGCP after-school program for helping her succeed. "She was always there for me. She watched me grow from someone who sat alone in the cafeteria to this person who speaks out." Jolade, a Providence Youth of the Year, went on to become a Rhode Island Youth of the Year and now attends Providence College on a full scholarship.

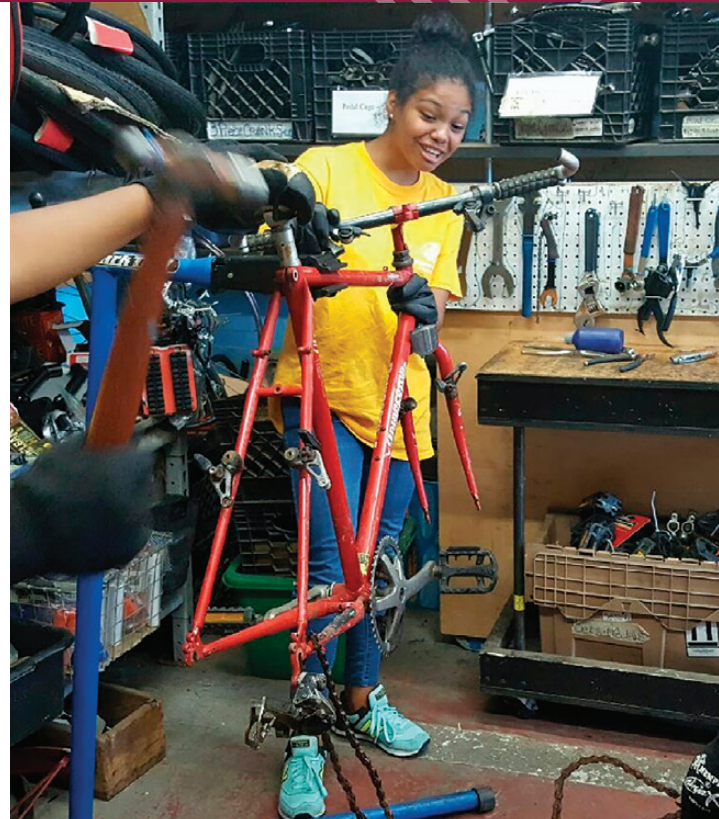
The need for **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT INNOVATION**

Workforce Development - We know that more than 75% of America's youth express concerns about whether they have the skills necessary to secure a job. In the city of Providence, one in four households live in poverty, 14% do not have a computer, and 10% do not have broadband internet access, making it more difficult to find employment. Ten percent of Providence youth aged 16-24 are "disconnected", meaning they are not in school or employed.

The workforce landscape is undergoing drastic change, with technological innovations and demand for new skills compounding the impact of the global pandemic. To meet the workforce challenges of today and tomorrow, BGCP offers young people safe spaces, positive mentorship, and work experiences. BGCP's teen workforce development program encourages young people to explore, develop and apply knowledge in real world settings. In 2021, BGCP placed 120 student in summer jobs. In 2022, in collaboration with the City of Providence, the job placement program was expanded to year round.

“By being involved in the summer jobs program, I learned, I made my own money, and I was not alone or afraid during the pandemic.”

– Justyn, rising junior at Juanita Sanchez Educational Complex





Our Members' Perspectives



“The Club taught me that leadership isn’t about being the loudest person in the room. It’s about showing up. It’s about using your story to make a difference. Today, I stand here as a Certified Nursing Assistant, ranked second in my class, working toward becoming a pediatrician. But titles aren’t what matter most to me. I believe every kid deserves a chance at a brighter future. That’s what drives me— not just to treat illnesses, but to empower young lives, and create spaces where every child feels seen and heard.”

– Emma G., 16 – Youth of the Year

“My favorite thing about the club is how everyone treats each other.”

– Za’Rhya



Investing in OUR CAPITAL CITY'S FUTURE

Your investment in the youth of Providence is an investment in the city's future. It's committing to a thriving, healthy, safe and productive community for everyone.

As we look to a multi-year pandemic recovery, BGCP will have a critical role to play in partnership with parents, schools, policymakers and the broader community to rebuild a foundation for educational and employment success for our city's most vulnerable and disconnected children and youth.

This will create a renewed sense of resilience, belonging, agency, competence and hope that will not only impact our children, but also the city of Providence and the state of Rhode Island as a whole.

With your support, BGCP will

- **Dramatically increase workforce training and other opportunities for 500 middle and high school students each year.**
- **Create new opportunities for disconnected youth ages 18-24.**
- **Offer weekly childcare enrollment for double the number of at-risk families in Providence.**
- **Serve approximately 1,000 at-risk children and teens in Providence each week.**
- **Revitalize the historic Wanskuck building and increase access to safe, healthy and usable space in an underserved community by three-fold.**

Your support for this campaign will make a tremendous difference and will create a FOREVER change in the lives of countless young people -- our community's future -- in Rhode Island's capital city of Providence.

We hope you will join us. To find out more, please contact Nicole Dufresne, CEO, at ndufresne@bgcprov.org.





Courtesy of Kroo Photography



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