



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF GREATER KANSAS CITY

2025 Annual Report

Clubs Create Open Doors



A Note from Our President

This year seemed to fly by, and yet we accomplished so much for our kids in 2025! Of course, as I always remind our supporters, our job is never done. As I write this, nationwide one in two kids doesn't have access to after-school programs, and one out of seven kids is left alone after school.

The good news is, our Club doors to both our free-standing sites and school-based locations are wide open, welcoming youth from five to 18 into a safe, warm space where they can expand their horizons, grow their skills and confidence, and make lifelong friends and teammates. And it's all done under the compassionate guidance of our outstanding team of dedicated staff and volunteers.

Kansas City needs Club kids because our communities recognize that the youth we nurture are well-prepared to become the leaders of tomorrow. Year after year, our Club members show us just how far they can go through their achievements, test scores, creativity, and enthusiastic drive. And they proudly give credit to our Clubs for helping them to grow and succeed.

It's our honor to play a role in lifting up the next generation, and we thank all of our supporters for helping to make everything we do possible.



Jason Roth, President & CEO
Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City



Kansas City Needs Club Kids

If you're looking for tomorrow's leaders, you just need to visit the 10 Boys & Girls Clubs locations across Greater Kansas City.

Before and after school and throughout the summer, our doors are open so parents and caregivers can go to work with peace of mind, knowing their children are safe, inspired, and gaining the skills and experiences they need to shape their own futures.

For communities around the country, the presence of Boys & Girls Clubs ensures kids have the chance to follow viable, exciting, and healthy paths to success. When kids have Clubs, our future is in good hands.



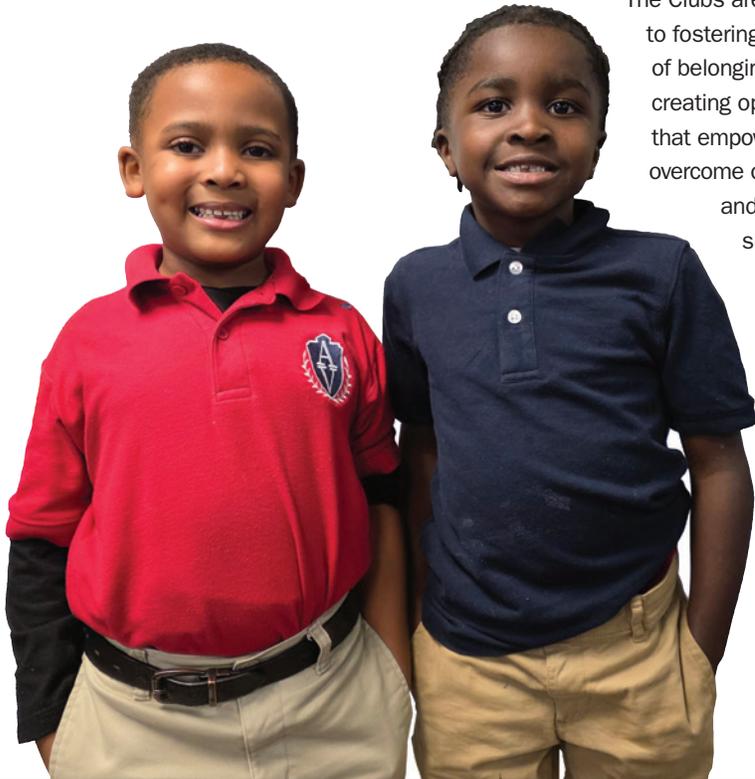
About Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City (BGCCKC)

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City

is a vital nonprofit youth development organization dedicated to transforming the lives of young people in the Greater Kansas City area. For more than 110 years, the Clubs have been a beacon of hope, providing a safe and positive environment where children and teens can discover their full potential, develop essential life skills, and build lasting relationships.

We aim to inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens.

The Clubs are committed to fostering a sense of belonging and creating opportunities that empower youth to overcome obstacles and achieve success in all aspects of life.



How We Achieve Our Important Work:

Strategic Vision – Ensure 100% of Club seniors graduate high school with post-secondary plans in place.

Impactful Programs – Our Whole Child Development program model focuses on education, character development, leadership, and healthy lifestyles to make a lasting impact on the lives of children and teens.

Dedicated Staff & Volunteers – This compassionate, skilled group provides mentorship, guidance, and support to help our kids thrive academically and personally.

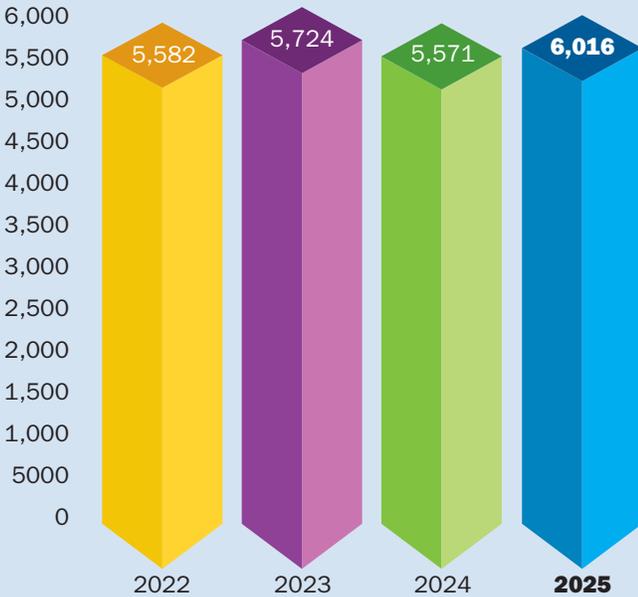
Community Engagement – The active collaboration between the Clubs and local businesses, organizations, and individuals is how we create a strong network of support for our youth. With their vision and support, we're able to address the unique challenges facing young people today and create a positive ripple effect throughout Greater Kansas City.



Year After Year, We Continue to Impact Our Kids in Positive Ways

From the number of youth served to the overall Club Experience, we lifted up Kansas City kids across all measures.

Total Youth Served:



Average Daily Participation (ADP)

819 Youth

Member Demographics (Clubs only, excludes sports)

51% Female

49% Male

94% qualify for free or reduced lunches.

54% report living in single-parent households.

Household Income

\$30K - \$35K Median household income range

49.4% of households report an income below \$30K.



The National Youth Outcomes Initiative (NYOI) helps the Clubs measure and improve the Club Experience, program quality and youth outcomes. We administer the NYOI Member Survey annually, which measures the degree to which Club members are achieving the outcomes of Academic Success, Good Character & Citizenship, and Healthy Lifestyles. Here are the results from 2025:

Clubs are Safe and Inclusive Spaces

94% of Club members report that they *“feel safe being themselves in the Club.”*

95% of Club members report *“I feel safe from harm at this Club.”*

95% of Club members feel as safe or safer at the Club as they do anywhere else, including at home and at school.

Clubs Encourage Academic Excellence

30% of Club teens will be the first person in their family to go to college.

96% of Club members believe they can do well in school.

Clubs Focus on Enjoyable Engagement

93% of Club members report that they enjoy coming to the Club.

95% of Club members report that there are fun programs at the Club.

Clubs Foster Supportive Relationships

97% of Club members report *“The adults at this Club care about me.”*

94% of Club members report *“I can talk to an adult at this Club if I have a problem.”*

92% of Club kids report *“People at this Club accept me for who I am.”*

Clubs Stress Building Healthy Relationships with Adults

95% of Club members report *“Adults here encourage me when I make positive choices.”*

93% of Club members report *“Adults at this Club ask my opinion on things.”*

97% of Club members report *“The adults at this Club believe that I will be a success.”*

96% of Club members report *“Adults here encourage me to do my best.”*

96% of Club Kids report *“I feel I advocate for change if something isn’t working for me.”*

Bright Futures Begin Inside Every Club



Every day, a young person enters one of our Clubs here in Greater Kansas City – and their life begins to change. Why? Because *we open doors*. Not just to buildings, but to belonging, belief, and possibility. We open doors to bright futures and we're proud to be a part of changing the lives of our youth for the better.

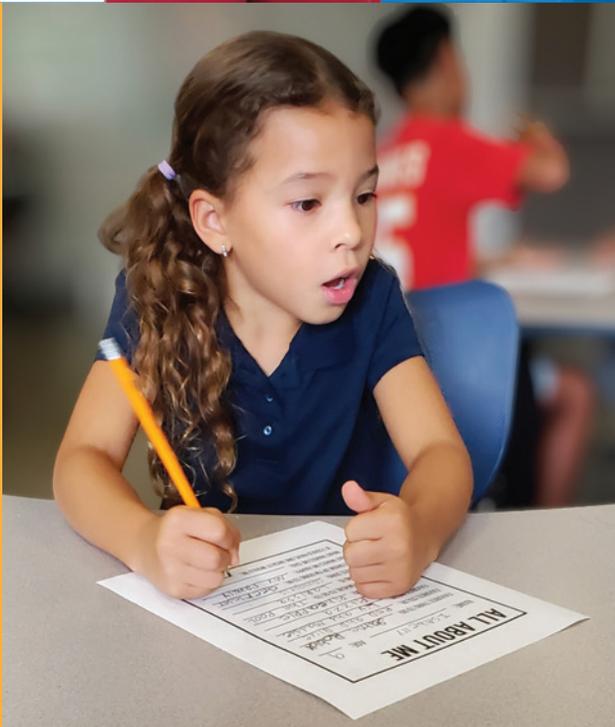
At a time when our nation faces challenges in education, mental health, workforce readiness, and finding community, the youth mentored through BGCCKC are the answer.

Within our walls, potential is unlocked, and paths to success in life and work are forged. Within our walls, young people find safe spaces where they feel seen, supported, and encouraged to discover and bring out the best in themselves. Inside our doors, young people are learning to lead, code, serve, advocate, and dream big. It's a transforming experience that develops them to be resilient, creative, compassionate, and prepared.

With this new confidence and focus, BGCCKC Kids are becoming artists, athletes, engineers, and change-makers. And, most importantly, they're connecting with mentors, dedicated to supporting their dreams every step of the way.

Our Clubs open the door to a future generation of leaders who will propel our country forward. Greater Kansas City, and, indeed, all of America, needs Club Kids – young people who are ready to lead, lift others up, and shape a better tomorrow. But they can't do it alone.

BGCCKC Kids need you – your voice, your support, and your partnership. Help open the door, so even more Greater Kansas City youth can walk through and step into their greatness. Because when you open the door to a Club, you're opening the door to a better future for all of us.



BGCGKC Has the Power to Unlock Potential

BGCGKC is:

Affordable & Accessible – Kids from communities across Greater Kansas City enjoy enriching before and after school, and summer experiences that are affordable for families and accessible to every child.

Established & Trusted – For more than a century, BGCGKC has been a safe and welcoming option for kids who crave learning, active fun, companionship, and mentors dedicated to helping Club Kids thrive.

Ubiquitous – Club alumni are everywhere, with 1 in 19 Americans growing up in a Boys & Girls Club. In our metro area alone, there are 10 total sites throughout the area (KCMO, KCK, Independence, and Olathe).

98% of Club members are **on grade level** for their age.

82% of Club members receive mostly **A's and B's**.

97% of Club members believe they will **graduate from high school**.

95% of Club members **plan to go to college** after high school graduation.

Results-Driven – Boys & Girls Clubs help more students stay on track and graduate with a plan for the future.

Relevant & Consistent – Boys & Girls Clubs keep kids engaged and learning year-round. With after-school and summer programs in STEM, art, literacy, and more, Club Kids are more likely to retain math and reading skills during the summer and get A's and B's when returning to school.

Supportive & Safe – The Clubs provide safe, inclusive learning environments, and positive, nonjudgmental spaces staffed by caring, supportive adult mentors. Members receive guidance in planning for life after school, including helping with college applications, financial aid, and career exploration.

Proven Curriculum – BGCGKC offers high-quality, evidence-informed programming that supports young people's aspirations and helps them find their unique voice. We cultivate purpose and ambition, enable outcomes, and speak up for young people. We change lives.

Focused on Wellbeing – As the connection between school and home, we ensure kids' physical and mental needs are met; from serving nearly 160,000 nourishing meals and snacks, both after school and throughout the summer, to offering extensive sports opportunities that build healthy, active habits – and good sportsmanship.



Every Collaboration Creates Another Foot in the Door

AT&T Partnership Helps Bridge the Digital Divide

In 2025, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City, in partnership with AT&T, proudly opened a new Connected Learning Center at our Thornberry Unit. This state-of-the-art center provides free access to high-speed internet and computers, while providing digital learning resources for Club members and the surrounding community.

In addition to the center's launch, AT&T invested \$50,000 to support Club programming and partnered with Human I-T to provide 125 laptops to our youth. This transformative investment expands access to technology, ensuring that young people have the tools, skills, and opportunities they need to succeed in school, careers, and life.

Saint Luke's Partnership Helps Encourage Healthier Lifestyles

For six years, the Clubs' partnership with Saint Luke's Health System has supported healthier communities through expanded access to nutrition and preventive health resources. This collaboration continues to grow through Healthy Habits Hubs—an initiative focused on fresh food access, nutrition education, and wellness support.

This year, Healthy Habits Hubs opened at the Thornberry and J&D Wagner Units in partnership with Saint Luke's and Kanbe's Markets. Featuring Kanbe's Coolers stocked with free, fresh produce, the Hubs served more than 200 families and distributed 1,228 pounds of food in just one month.

As part of a broader community health effort alongside the Kansas City Health Department, Mattie Rhodes Center, and the Greater KC Black Nurses Association, Healthy Habits Hubs help address food insecurity and promote health equity through trusted neighborhood spaces.

Panda Cares Center of Hope Creates New Opportunities for Bright Futures

In December 2025, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City opened a new Panda Cares Center of Hope at the 15 and the Mahomies Unit, transforming a multi-purpose room into a flexible, welcoming space designed for learning, creativity, and connection.

Made possible through a \$45,000 investment from Panda Cares, the Center of Hope supports Project Learn by providing an environment where youth can seamlessly transition between homework help, tutoring, literacy enrichment, and social-emotional learning.

Through intentional design and high-yield learning activities—including reading, writing, discussions with caring adults, and skill-building games—the space has already strengthened youth engagement, confidence, and connection. The Center also supports collaboration among Club staff, families, and school partners, reinforcing academic success and whole-child development.



Our Impact By the Numbers

An average of **819 youth per day** participated in Club programming.



Approximately **2,300 youth** participated in our sports programming.

Nearly **160,000 meals and snacks** served.



More than **\$31^K** in **scholarships** were awarded to deserving youth in grades 8–12. The funds may be used for **any educational purpose**, including college, theater, performing arts, science, or athletics.



For the 9th consecutive year, **100% of our active Club seniors** graduated from high school with **post-secondary plans in place.**



Athletics: Nurturing Respectful, Responsible Youth

Pro Football Hall of Famer, Howie Long, said it best: *“Sports ideally teach discipline and commitment. They challenge you and build character for everything you do in life.”*

Those words are reflected daily in the outstanding sports leagues developed by BGCGKC and our collaborative youth development partners including Della Lamb, KCMO PAL, KCMO Parks & Recreation, LINC, and the Elementary School Divisions of both KCPS and USD 500.

BGCGKC Sports Programs Include:

Basketball – Sponsored by Live Like Luke, our Club teams played games at three venues across the metro: Thornberry (three courts), Central High (two courts), and Della Lamb (one court). This year, participation reached new heights with 76 teams and more than 850 players hitting the hardwood – an almost 100% growth in participation compared to just two years ago (40 teams and 486 participants in 2023).

To meet demand, we capped registration, ensuring a quality experience for all participants. 2025 saw the creation two all-female divisions in 10U and 12U recreation, providing more opportunities for young girls to develop their skills and shine on the court. We also enhanced concessions this year, featuring Chick-fil-A sandwiches available at select locations.

Baseball & Softball – 925 baseball players and over 300 softball players participated in our spring and fall seasons, competing across seven baseball and four softball age divisions. Cleveland Park and the Kansas City Urban Youth Academy hosted the games, as did our league partner locations: Adair Park, Little Blue Trace, and Mill Creek.

The season culminated with the 2025 Nike Central RBI Regional Tournament, held July 25–27 at the Kansas City Urban Youth Academy. Our Royals RBI program entered teams in Junior Baseball (15U), Senior Baseball (18U), and Softball (18U) divisions. Juniors finished 0-4 in pool play; and Seniors went 2-2 with exciting wins against the Minnesota Twins RBI and Gary RBI.

Just two years ago, we sent our first softball team to the tournament. This year, they earned the No. 1 seed after pool play with a 3-1 record. After dropping the first game, they rallied with a thrilling 6-5 walk-off win over Indy RBI, followed by victories against White Sox RBI (2-1) and Gary RBI (9-1). The team ultimately fell to the White Sox RBI in the championship game.

Flag Football League – Every Saturday through the end of October, more than 380 players across four age divisions participated in games on four fields at Cleveland Park.

In 2025, we served **2,288 youth** across the metro area – a **55% increase** over the previous year. Our leagues offer a **fun, safe, and supportive environment** for Club Kids outside of school, while providing powerful character-building experiences that foster **discipline, commitment, teamwork, and respect for others.**



Girls' Soccer – We're proud to report that our 2nd and 3rd grade girls' soccer team, made up of 12 members from the Breidenthal and Thornberry Units, went undefeated in the spring soccer league under the expert coaching of Timera Kakish and Jadon Hughes.

Girls on the Run – Launched at Thornberry this fall, this national, evidence-based program empowers our Club girls to recognize their inner strength, increase physical activity, and confidently stand up for themselves and others.

Opening Minds Opens Up a World of Prospects

Cool Kids Chemistry – This past fall, the Club launched this amazing program at our Lee A. Tolbert and Nowlin Middle School sites. Participants quickly embraced the accessible and fun teaching style of Professor Antwan Daniels, whose sessions create a space where Club members learn through curiosity, trial, and the excitement that comes when an experiment and a theory come together in a successful conclusion.

National research shows that hands-on STEM in after-school settings strengthens confidence and a sense of belonging, and also nurtures a long-term interest in science. Those newfound qualities are clearly evident in the energy around our lab tables!

In the Cool Kids Chemistry program, Club members have had the chance to explore concepts like solubility by measuring how salt and sugar dissolve in water and even making ice cream to understand energy transfer. Youth who once avoided anything they thought was too hard are now leading experiments, questioning their own assumptions, and surprising themselves with what they can do.

The 2025 semester closed with our first-ever White Coat Ceremony – a moment that honors effort, courage, and every small step forward. Watching our members step into those coats reminds us why this work matters – and why we are committed to expanding it.



Atomic Blast – As one of our most popular and successful programs, the 9-week Atomic Blast Summer Enrichment Program, powered by the Kansas City National Security Campus managed by Honeywell FM&T, continues to thrive and grow. With an average of 700 youth participating daily and more than 400 field trips this past year alone, Atomic Blast lived up to its promise of keeping young minds and bodies active all summer long.



Activities included swimming and skating, as well as visits to Wonderscope, Deanna Rose, and the Overland Park Arboretum & Botanical Garden. Participants also enjoyed hands-on learning through the Missouri Department of Conservation Discovery Days. Meanwhile, 17 classrooms operated instructional summer school through KCPS, with certified teachers delivering fun lessons in ELA, math, and science.

Our Club teens engaged in field trips to the Union Station Planetarium, skating, movies, bowling, and entrepreneurship sessions with KC G.I.F.T. As part of our continued commitment to college and career readiness, they also explored careers with partners like NASB and Summit Homes, and visited ten different college campuses, including University of Missouri-Kansas City, Park University, Lincoln University, and Johnson County Community College.

2nd Annual Elaine Allen's Rising Star Talent Showcase –

Dedicated in loving memory of our late Arts Director, Elaine Allen, the event showcased the singing and dancing talents of our members.



The showcase opened with an energetic dance performance by Breidenthal's Pink Diamonds Dance Team, followed by six outstanding acts from other talented Club youth. As judging was underway, attendees enjoyed spoken word pieces from the previous year's winner, Sanaya S., and Thornberry Unit Program Director, Akilah Cherry.

11-year-old Damarion D. from the Breidenthal Unit took home the top honor for his moving rendition of "Back at One" by Brian McKnight.

Rising Star Winners:

- **1st Place – Damarion D.**, representing the Breidenthal Unit
- **2nd Place – Lyla L.**, representing the 15 and the Mahomies Unit
- **3rd Place – Romello D. & Cayden H.**, representing the Thornberry Unit

Club Programming Continues to Create Future-Ready Kids

Club Lit Program – According to SchoolSmartKC, only 23% of 3rd graders in Kansas City public and charter schools are reading at grade level. Without intervention, these children are four times more likely to drop out of high school – a reality we are determined to change.

Through our Club Lit year-round literacy program, our kids are rewriting that story. Today, the statistics reflect significant successes. Thanks to Club Lit, our members are gaining confidence, discovering joy in reading, and unlocking a brighter future. The program provides individualized literacy intervention to Club members in kindergarten through 5th grade, at four of our locations.

During the 2024–25 school year, 361 members participated in Club Lit – and the results speak volumes:

- **75% improved** their reading level.
- **Nearly one in three advanced** a full grade level or more.
- **The number** of members **reading below the target dropped by 24%**.

The summer 2025 data shows that we still made an impact even in just a matter of weeks!

- **335 Club members** enrolled.
- **58% improved** their reading skills.
- **The number** of kids **reading below target decreased by 4%**, and **above target rates increased by 6%**.

These gains represent more than just numbers; they represent children discovering the power and excitement of learning. At Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City, literacy is more than reading – it's a pathway to bigger dreams, greater achievement, and lifelong success.

YPI Program (Youth Police Initiative) – In 2024, most violent crimes in Kansas City were committed by offenders between the ages of 18 and 34. In response, the Clubs committed to being part of the solution. Our focus was on early intervention, and we rose to the challenge by facilitating 16 Youth and Police Initiative sessions (YPI) within a six-month timeframe.

YPI is offered to teens ages 14 to 18, where the importance of making positive choices is emphasized, along with learning how poor decisions can impact themselves, their loved ones, and their community. One of the core goals of YPI is to bridge the gap between youth and law enforcement by fostering genuine relationships through a week of games, activities, meaningful conversations, storytelling, and shared meals.

Look How They Grew Their Reading Skills

Meet **Princeton S.**, a 1st grader who attends our Club Lit Program. When Princeton started, we knew he had the potential to realize great reading skills. When he first joined a year ago as a kindergartener, he was already reading at a 2nd-grade reading level (Skillset 8). As of this writing, Princeton has advanced to some of our highest reading levels, and he now knows many four-syllable words from Skillsets 11 and 12 (3rd-grade reading level). Princeton continues to improve daily, and soon he'll graduate to becoming an independent reader!



Meet **Aria G.** who entered the Club Lit program as a kindergartener with a strong reading foundation. But that didn't stop Aria from wanting to rise to higher reading levels! Through her hard work, she is already reading close to the 1st grade target – and she's just at the beginning of 1st grade!



In 2025, we were proud to have achieved our goal of completing 16 cohorts across the J&D Wagner, Thornberry, and S. KiKi Curls Units, as well as at Winnetonka High School in Kansas City, MO. Through this initiative, our youth were empowered with knowledge, support, and connection, laying the groundwork for safer, stronger communities.

Our Goal: Create Wide Open Paths to Amazing Outcomes

Expanding young minds must include experiences outside school and even Club settings. That said, it's a primary goal of ours to ensure that teen members are given all the advantages they deserve to have these important experiences. In 2025, we were fortunate to send several Club members on memorable trips that we know will have lasting impacts on their lives.



Summit for America's Youth

– Club teens, Italy, Kianna, Erion, and Brooklynn, all from our Breidenthal Unit, had the thrill of traveling to Washington, D.C.,

to participate in the 2025 Summit for America's Youth.

The girls spent a day in the Nation's capital meeting with House and Senate representatives to share their powerful project, *In Color This Time*. This youth-led spoken-word initiative highlights the effects of racism and challenges the harmful belief that “words are just words.” The project focuses on real experiences of young people in their communities.

Additionally the group visited the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture, toured historical monuments, and connected with changemakers from Boys & Girls Clubs across the country.

National Keystone Conference – Seven Club teens attended this exciting Chicago conference. Each year, teens from across the country attend the conference to participate in thought-provoking workshops that address teen issues and promote community service. Our seven participants learned key leadership skills, and also how to take their Keystone group to the next level.

G.I.F.T. Teaches Teens About Entrepreneurship – A group of our teens from the Thornberry Unit had the chance to participate in a dynamic 5-week entrepreneurship program in cooperation with KC G.I.F.T., a full-service business center that provides Black business owners in Kansas City's historically redlined neighborhoods with equitable access to grants and also provides free small business support.

This unique program is designed to empower teens with essential entrepreneurship skills. Participants explored the fundamentals of turning an idea into a thriving business. Key business skills such as budgeting, marketing, and business plan development were also on the agenda, as was strengthening soft skills such as public speaking and professional communication. The program culminated in a final pitch event, where teens presented their business concepts to a panel of judges.



Final pitches included:

High Table – a high-end suits and tailoring company

A & J's Hair Boutique – a stylish, inclusive hair salon

Open-Door Café – a pet-friendly restaurant with menus for humans and pets



Start-up Squad (Northland Unit) – As part of the Atomic Blast program at the Northland Unit, girls ages 9 - 12 had the chance to participate in the “Get Down to Business” program, thanks to the generous support of the Keen Wealth Foundation. This hands-on entrepreneurship journey equipped participants with the tools to develop their own business ideas, receive seed funding, and bring their products to life – all while reinforcing literacy through an accompanying chapter book.

The weeks-long program, which covered learning about customer needs, branding, pricing, pitching, and perseverance, concluded with the participants launching three businesses and selling their products at the Parkville Farmer's Market:

Flower Made – Rose Recharge, an uplifting electrolyte-infused pink lemonade served in hand-decorated cups.

Milk-A-Star – Mocha Starburst and Pink Stardust, two “out-of-this-world” beverage creations.

Slime 2.0 – “World's Best Homemade Slime,” including original, crunchy, and fluffy slime with charms.

Our Generous Supporters: The Keys to Our Success

29th Annual Kids Night Out

The Kansas City community came out in full force again this year at the 29th Annual Kids Night Out with Jordan Davis event on Saturday, April 26th at the Overland Park Convention Center. Thanks to your amazing generosity, we had an incredible night, raising a record-breaking \$3.34 million for local Club youth and programs!

A crowd of 1,500+ enjoyed a Super Silent Auction, cocktail party, and an exciting Live Auction with priceless packages, led by the funny and entertaining “fundraising guy”, Harry Santa-Olalla. Kids Night Out also featured Fox 4’s Abby Eden, as well as an inspiring message from our newly crowned Missouri State Youth of the Year, Zoei G., and, of course, our special celebrity guest, Jordan Davis. Jordan delighted the crowd with his music and humor, putting on a show that kept everyone dancing in the aisles for nearly an hour.

Special thanks to our Presenting Sponsor, Griffin Riley Property Group for stepping up for our Club youth. Griffin Riley was supported by a stellar event committee led by all-star Corporate Board member Andy Burczyk. It was truly a night for the history books!



8th Annual Tour de Fork

Our 8th Annual Tour de Fork event on Thursday, September 25th, was a tremendous (shall we say: delicious?!) success.

Over 350 guests filled the Garmin Hangar and enjoyed cocktails, silent and live auctions, and live chef action stations courtesy of Sysco and KC Wine Co. We’re thrilled to report that more than \$220,000 was raised for our Olathe Club youth and programs. Also featured at the event was emcee Abby Eden (Fox 4), along with a fantastic performance by Olathe Club member Anashe, a lively game of culinary trivia, and inspiring messages from Club youth and alumni.

Special thanks to our Executive Chef Sponsors, Atmos Energy, Garmin, Kansas City National Security Campus, managed by Honeywell FM&T, and Subaru of Olathe, as well as our fabulous Honorary Chair, Brent McCune, for stepping up for our Club youth. Brent was supported by the amazing teams at Garmin, Sysco, and TVH Parts, as well as by a stellar event committee.



2nd Annual Putts Fore Kids

BGCGKC held its 2nd Annual Putts Fore Kids event on Thursday, November 8, at the Puttery Mini Golf Course on the Country Club Plaza. More than a good time, this was a “putt for a purpose” in support of our local Club kids. Nearly 200 guests filled the venue’s lower level and enjoyed an evening of mini golf, tasty bites, cocktails, a silent auction, and some friendly competitions and games.

Special thanks to our group of lead sponsors, who helped us raise nearly double the funds we raised last year. They included: Target, JE Dunn Construction, Kansas City National Security Campus, managed by Honeywell FM&T, NBKC, Clare & Robert Powell, Raising Cane’s, and Walmart. We’re also grateful that this event was supported in part by the City of Kansas City and the Missouri Neighborhood Tourist Development Fund.



Leadership Exemplified: Meet Our Two Youths of the Year

Zoei and Levii are two remarkable Club members who embody the values of leadership, service, academic excellence, and healthy lifestyles – they are truly shining examples of the transformative impact of the Boys & Girls Clubs' programs.

Just as impressive, they became the first youth from the same Boys & Girls Club chapter to win both Youth of the Year state titles (Youth of the Year and Junior Youth of the Year). This is the 3rd consecutive year that Greater Kansas City has won the Youth of the Year state title.

Let's meet them...

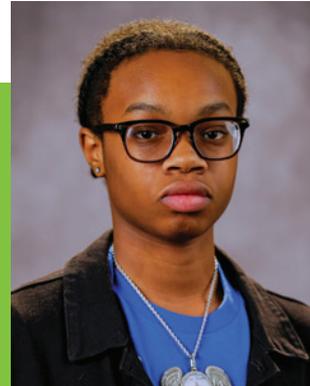


Zoei G.:
2025 Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City & Missouri State Youth of the Year

Meet Zoei, a lighthearted and dedicated young lady with focus and motivation. This past year, she took on a leadership role as an advocate and teen representative of the Clubs. Zoei attends University Academy, where she has played the baritone/euphonium in her school band since 7th grade. She's also in her 3rd year serving as manager for her school's track team.

Zoei's favorite subject is American Literature, a natural fit for her love of reading and writing. A longtime Club Kid, she has attended the Thornberry Unit since she was 5 years old. Her favorite Club program is the Atomic Blast Summer Enrichment program, where she enjoys going on field trips and participating in fun, educational activities with other Club members.

Outside of school and the Club, Zoei's hobbies include writing poetry, singing, Bible study, and discovering new music. She is an avid anime fan and shares that her favorite series is Haikyuu. Zoei draws inspiration from her faith. Her favorite quote is from Matthew 13:16: "But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear."



Levii M.:
2025 Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City & Missouri State Junior Youth of the Year

Meet Levii, a young man with a natural ability to lead, inspire, and bring people together. Levii has made a lasting impact at his Club and beyond and approaches every challenge with determination and heart. Levii attends Lee A. Tolbert Community Academy and has been a member of the Clubs for the past three years. From the very beginning, he has stepped up as a hard worker, a leader by example, and a loyal friend, making a positive impact wherever he goes. As an honor student, Levii consistently earns A's while balancing many responsibilities. He serves as the President of the Student Council and is a proud member of the National Junior Honor Society.

But Levii's talents extend far beyond the classroom. He's an athlete and an artist. Whether he's scoring goals, painting a masterpiece, running a Student Council meeting, or telling a joke to lighten the mood, Levii pours his energy and personality into everything he does. What sets Levii apart is his ability to connect with people and bring out the best in them. He inspires people not by being perfect, but by being himself.

KANSAS CITY NEEDS CLUB KIDS

We Salute Our 2025 Alumni Hall of Fame Honorees

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City Alumni Hall of Fame is the highest accolade bestowed upon former Club members or dedicated supporters. It signifies outstanding

personal and professional achievements, coupled with an unwavering commitment to improving the lives of children and youth in the community.

Joyce Hayhow – 2025 Alumni Hall of Fame Honoree

Joyce is a lifelong Kansas Citian and former president and publisher of the *Kansas City Business Journal*. She has long demonstrated her commitment to community service through extensive board leadership, including past Board of Director roles with Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City, MOCSA, the American Red Cross, Starlight Theatre, JDRF, the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, KCADC, as well as past board chair of BGCCKC and past board chair of the Advancement Board of KU Academic Medical Center.

After 27 years, Joyce retired in January 2015 from the *Kansas City Business Journal*, where she had served as president & publisher since 1991. Before joining the *Business Journal*, Joyce spent 13 years working in the advertising and media industries.

Joyce is currently serving as an emeritus board member of Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City Board of Directors, as well as for the KU Advancement Board of Directors. In addition, she currently serves on the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City Board Development Committee and KU's Cancer Funding Partners.

Brandy Johnson – 2025 Alumni Hall of Fame Honoree

Brandy has long been committed to service and youth development and is herself a former Boys & Girls Club kid. She remains an active supporter of the Clubs, serving on the Board of Directors and drawing on leadership experience from her human resources career and her prior service in the United States Army. As an ordnance officer, she gained valuable experience that helped her develop her foundation in leadership, logistics, and operations management.

Brandy is currently the Chief People Officer for the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, which has afforded her numerous opportunities to help shape the organization's workforce culture and drive initiatives that strengthen employee engagement, leadership development, and organizational effectiveness.

Before joining the Kauffman Foundation, Brandy served as Vice President of Human Resources at Compass Minerals, where she was responsible for global talent management, organizational design, and HR strategy. Earlier in her career, Brandy led HR operations across North America, South America, and EMEA for PPG Industries, building scalable systems to support diverse workforces and aligning HR practices with global business priorities.

As a former Boys & Girls Club member in the 1990s, Brandy gained invaluable experiences through the Club's activities and learning opportunities. Today, in addition to serving on the BGCCKC board, she gives back by also chairing the Clubs' Human Resources Committee. Brandy is committed to staying actively engaged to ensure the Clubs remain a strong foundation for developing young leaders.



Our 2025 Staff Stars: The Passion Behind Our Mission

Lily Wilson, Director of School Partnerships for BGCCKC, was named one of the National Afterschool Association's (NAA) 2025 Next Generation of Afterschool Leaders in 2025. Lily currently oversees our two 21st Century school grant sites, where she shares her passion for youth development, commitment to growth, and dedication to making a lasting impact in the out-of-school time field. This well-deserved honor highlights Lily's leadership, persistence, and efforts to uplift not only Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City, but the entire afterschool community.



Michelle Ruffin, Senior Director of Safety Compliance and Prevention for BGCCKC, was recognized in 2025 as a safety peer consultant at the Boys & Girls Clubs national conference in San Diego, California. This recognition is given to those across the movement who are leading the way toward helping Clubs enhance their member safety and climate.

Michelle previously won the Safety Superhero award at the 2024 national conference for completing the certified Praesidium Guardian training. Additionally, Michelle has been tapped by Boys & Girls Clubs of America to assist in developing a series of safety micro-learning.

We Meet Kids Where They Live & Learn

7 Club Units, 3 School Sites

Unit Locations:

15 and the Mahomies Unit

315 S Leslie Ave, Independence, MO 64050

Breidenthal Unit

1240 Troup Ave, Kansas City, KS 66102

Hawthorne Unit

16995 Dover Ln, Independence, MO 64056

J&D Wagner Unit

2405 Elmwood Ave, Kansas City, MO 64127

Northland Unit

1321 NE Vivion Rd, Kansas City, MO 64118

Olathe Unit

520 S Harrison St, Olathe, KS 66061

Thornberry Unit

3831 E 43rd St, Kansas City, MO 64130

School Locations:

Clifford H. Nowlin Middle School

2800 S Hardy Ave, Independence, MO 64052

Lee A. Tolbert Community Academy Charter School

3400 Paseo Blvd, Kansas City, MO 64109

S. Kiki Curls Unit

9010A Old Santa Fe Rd, Kansas City, MO 64138

Mission Statement

Promote the development of self-esteem, values and skills for boys and girls, ages 5-18, with special emphasis on youth from disadvantaged circumstances

*Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City (BGCCKC) is a **charter member** of Boys & Girls Clubs of America and is a United Way agency.*



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF GREATER KANSAS CITY

Nancy and Gordon Beaham Legacy Center

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