

# ANNUAL REPORT FY20



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**  
OF PAWTUCKET

# OUR MISSION

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The mission of the Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket is to inspire and enable the young people of Pawtucket and surrounding communities, especially those with greatest need, to realize their full potential as healthy, productive, responsible and caring citizens.

# OUR VISION

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At the Boys & Girls of Pawtucket we believe that every member has the potential to be productive and to succeed.

# OUR IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

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12 community partners



25,900 meals served



1,200+ wellness check  
phone calls made by staff



1,369 members served for  
in-person programs



16 virtual programs  
3,000+ minutes of  
viewed content



\$8,000 in grocery gift cards  
given to families facing  
financial hardships

# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends,

As I reflect on the past 12 months, I am truly humbled by and grateful for the outpouring of support that the Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket received from so many of you. This past year has been anything but ordinary, but together we have been able to accomplish so much for our members and their families.

When the fiscal year began in September, we had no idea of the journey that lay ahead in the months to come- with the pandemic hitting not long thereafter. Our staff had to quickly reimagine the way we deliver programs and tirelessly worked to rethink how we could best serve the thousands of youth in Pawtucket, Central Falls and the surrounding communities who rely on our services every year. We knew that we had to be different to meet the challenges of the pandemic, and we did just that.

The Club achieves our mission by providing a safe haven for youth daily- a place that still existed despite the trying times they faced over these last six months. We developed a Family Support Program to answer the needs of members and families facing food insecurities; we pivoted our traditional in-person programs to virtual activities through many platforms, we even created a virtual series exclusively for our teens- all to make sure we kept our members connected and supported. And when it was deemed safe to do so, we reopened our doors in June. We offered summer programs for both pre-teen and teen members; hosted a socially-distanced graduation for our graduating Club seniors and ensured that we did whatever it took to provide for our families.

As always, we depend on the generous spirit of our supporters to drive our mission forward in the community. In this report, I invite you to read about some of the many opportunities that we provided our members and their families with each day. Together we are doing whatever it takes to build a brighter future for our youth.



**JAMES R. HOYT, JR.**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**



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# 01 ACADEMIC SUCCESS



High school graduation is an important goal for all of our members. To help in their progression toward this goal we offer a variety of programs including: homework help, tutoring in math and reading, science programs and activities, lessons in our technology labs and much more. We also offer career counseling to help teens transition into successful adults.

## OUR PROGRAMS & PARTNERS

- Career Exploration
- MyFuture
- Career Launch
- Money Matters
- Tinker & Create
- College/University
- Pawtucket School Department

“THE PROGRAMS THE CLUB OFFERS HAVE GIVEN STUDENTS A SAFE SPACE AFTER SCHOOL WITH ENRICHING ACTIVITIES. THERE IS TRULY SOMETHING FOR EVERY STUDENT. THEY STRIVE FOR EACH CLUB MEMBER TO GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL WITH A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE.”

*-School Counselor, Pawtucket School Department*

# 02 CHARACTER & CITIZENSHIP

We strive to empower youth to support and influence the Club and our community, sustain meaningful relationships with others, develop a positive self-image, participate in the democratic process and respect their own and others' cultural identities. We run specialized programs which help raise awareness and understanding of current events and the role youth play in the world around them – on a local and national level.

## OUR PROGRAMS & PARTNERS

- Teen Empowerment Town Halls
- Youth of the Year
- Passport to Manhood
- Torch Club
- Keystone Club
- Smart GIRLS



# 03

# HEALTHY LIFESTYLES



We run several programs to help develop our members' capacity to engage in positive behaviors that nurture their own well-being, set personal goals and live successfully as self-sufficient adults. We also offer a wide variety of recreational sports programs which help youth in developing a sense of fairness, positive use of leisure time, skills for stress management, appreciation for the environment and social skills.

## OUR PROGRAMS & PARTNERS

- Aquatics
- Camp Ramsbottom
- Sport Leagues
- Cooking
- Farm Fresh RI
- Shri Yoga

“RBI HELPED ME GROW AND GAVE ME SO MANY OPPORTUNITIES THAT OTHER PROGRAMS DO NOT HAVE. RBI ALL-STARS WAS THE BEST THING THAT HAS EVER HAPPENED TO ME.”  
-Long-time Club member

# 04 CONFIDENT SELF-EXPRESSION THROUGH THE ARTS

Our art programs provide members with both a creative outlet and exposure to a variety of artistic forms and influences. The exposure members get to a wide range of arts helps them to understand the incredible and diverse world in which they live. The Club enables youth to develop their capacity and cultural awareness through knowledge and appreciation of the visual arts, crafts, performing arts, and creative writing.

## OUR PROGRAMS & PARTNERS

- Art Classes
- Creative Dance
- Performance Arts
- Home Economics
- Art Connection-RI
- Sewing
- Creative Writing
- Reel Artistry

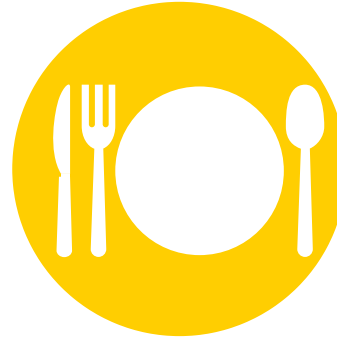




# WHATEVER IT TAKES TO....

## ....*keep families nourished*

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we continued to meet the needs of our families. We developed our Family Support Program (FSP) in the spring that responded to families facing food insecurities and financial hardships. In collaboration with the Blackstone Valley Community Action Program (BVCAP), Stop & Shop, the Rhode Island Community Food Bank, and funding from Bank of America, FSP was a two-part program that provided families with dinner kits that included healthy meal options for the whole family, along with a gift card to Stop & Shop to purchase other household essentials.



**8,845 meals**  
**700+ activity kits**  
**4 partners**



“This program provides families, like my own, with weekly groceries,” said a long-time Club member. “Kids aren’t going to school, so they aren’t getting their two meals there. And now they are unable to get the third one at the Club.” The Family Support Program helps Club families put meals on their tables during this crisis. “It helps our family a lot; they give us a lot of food, milk, and drinks to last the week. Thank you, BGCP!”



The second component to Family Support Program were ‘Family Fun Kits’ which were filled with items surrounding language arts, exercise equipment, arts and crafts, and a family board game. The overall goal of FSP was to support Club members’ education, while providing a healthy alternative to screen time- and that so many of our families were looking for.

# WHATEVER IT TAKES TO....

## ....celebrate accomplishments

Being named Youth of the Year is the highest honor a Boys & Girls Club member can receive. The title recognizes outstanding contributions to a member's family, school, community, and Boys & Girls Club, as well as personal challenges and obstacles overcome. Each year, one extraordinary Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket member between the ages of 14-18, who exemplifies outstanding commitment to leadership, service, academic excellence and dedication to living a healthy lifestyle is selected to be the BGCP Youth of the Year. **Anthony Morgan, Jr. was awarded the title Youth of the Year in 2020.** He is a junior at Charles E. Shea High School and has been a Club member for over three years. During his time at the Club, he has established both lifelong goals and friendships. Tony has taken advantage of all the opportunities available to him at the Club; he participates in programs such as the Keystone Club, Passport to Manhood and serves on the Club's Teen Advisory Board. The Club's athletic programs play a big part in Tony's overall experience, as he enjoys learning new skills from others.



“Despite programs being closed, the guidance of Club staff never faded.”

- Anthony Morgan Jr. 2020 Youth of the Year



In the summer, we hosted a socially-distanced outdoor graduation ceremony to honor our 17 seniors. Held in our parking lot, each graduate was able to have one vehicle in attendance. Attendees sat safely in their car or designated area to watch their loved one cross the stage to receive their certificate of achievement. The Club followed safety measures including the wearing of facemasks for the duration of the event and practiced social distancing. For many of our seniors, this was their only ceremony to honor their successes over the last 12 years. The Club's Teen Director reminded the graduates that they are now role models in their community, stating that, ***“great futures start here and these seniors are paving the way for the next generation to follow in their footsteps.”***



# WHATEVER IT TAKES TO....

## ....keep members connected

In response to the closure of schools and the Club in March, we committed to providing our members with the academic, recreational, and social resources that they were accustomed to while at home. **Our Virtual Club Program ensured that our members had daily access to our high-quality educational programs**, as well as National Boys & Girls Club of America (BGCA) programs through the Myfuture platform.

Our Aquatics program, was forced to quickly adapt as well. While the pool was closed, our swim coaches wanted to keep our swimmers active with at-home workouts via weekly Zoom calls.

"My favorite thing about virtual practices were all the activities we got to do and the exercises," reflected a Club swimmer. Our swimmers were not only able to stay conditioned for the summer season, but also had an outlet to socialize with their friends. In July, we were able to safely open our Aquatic programs again, but with limitations. Spectators are no longer able to enter our pool area. Given this constraint, **our swim team coaches thought outside of the box and hosted our first of many virtual swim meets**. This gave parents/guardians, friends, and family, the opportunity to watch their favorite swimmer compete from the comfort and safety of their homes.

**"THANK YOU for creating alternative experiences during the summer! It's a relief to know there are options, even if they are virtual."**

**-Club Parent**



”

*It was important for us to showcase all of the hard work that our swimmers have put in during the season. Our virtual meets are successful- they give families a safe opportunity to cheer on their loved ones. They have been viewed on Facebook by hundreds!*

”

**-Sharks Swim Team Coach**



With limited capacity at our Clubhouse, we wanted to better serve our community and do **whatever it takes** to connect with our members. The Rhode Island Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs partnered with the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) to provide youth across the state with numerous distance learning opportunities. **Our staff hosted three virtual programs, 'Healthy Heroes', 'Reel Artistry Photography', and 'Creativity Corner', servicing 50 participants over the summer months**. Those registered were provided with all materials needed and each week they checked into their designated platform to learn their task. They also had the opportunity to virtually meet with staff for guidance when needed.

Leadership in our Teen Program developed our Teen Empowerment Town Hall series - an open forum for teens to speak openly with their peers, staff, and community leaders. This series encourages our teens to speak openly with their peers and seek advice from adult mentors they trust.



# WHATEVER IT TAKES TO....

## *....have fun!*

While our programs looked different this summer, we ensured that fun was a top priority in all of our program planning. Throughout the summer we worked with community partners to launch a new summer program at Buttonhole Golf in Providence, RI. **Teen members had the chance to learn a new sport and get a change of scenery.** Upon their completion of the practice program, they were able to visit the facility year round to practice their golf skills for only \$1 per visit. Additionally, following each lesson, members worked with college students from the University of Rhode Island on practicing healthy lifestyles and nutrition.



We provided our pre-teens with summer programs geared to their interests as well, that focused on recreation, arts and crafts, social emotional wellness, education and most importantly- fun! Our summer programs safely welcomed 68 youth over an 8-week period. Our programs also incorporated service learning into all of our curriculum.



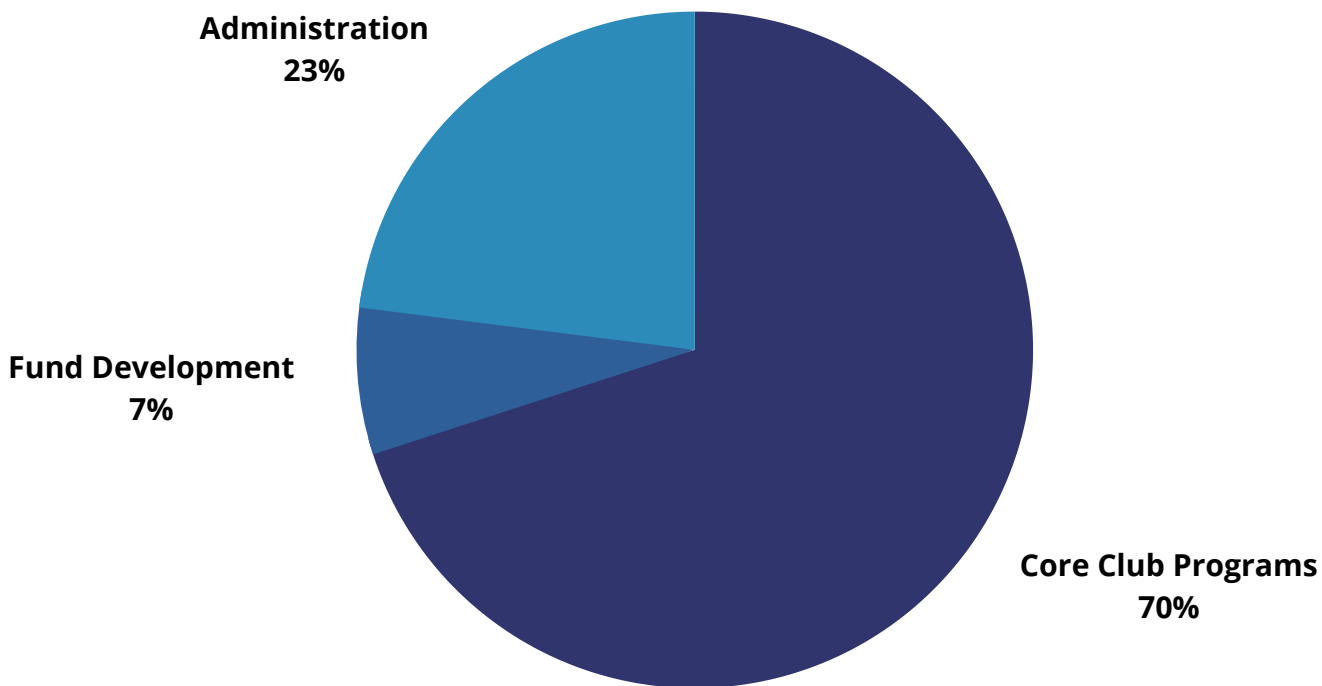
“ I would recommend the Club to a friend because it helps you make new friends and try new things.

”

-Club member

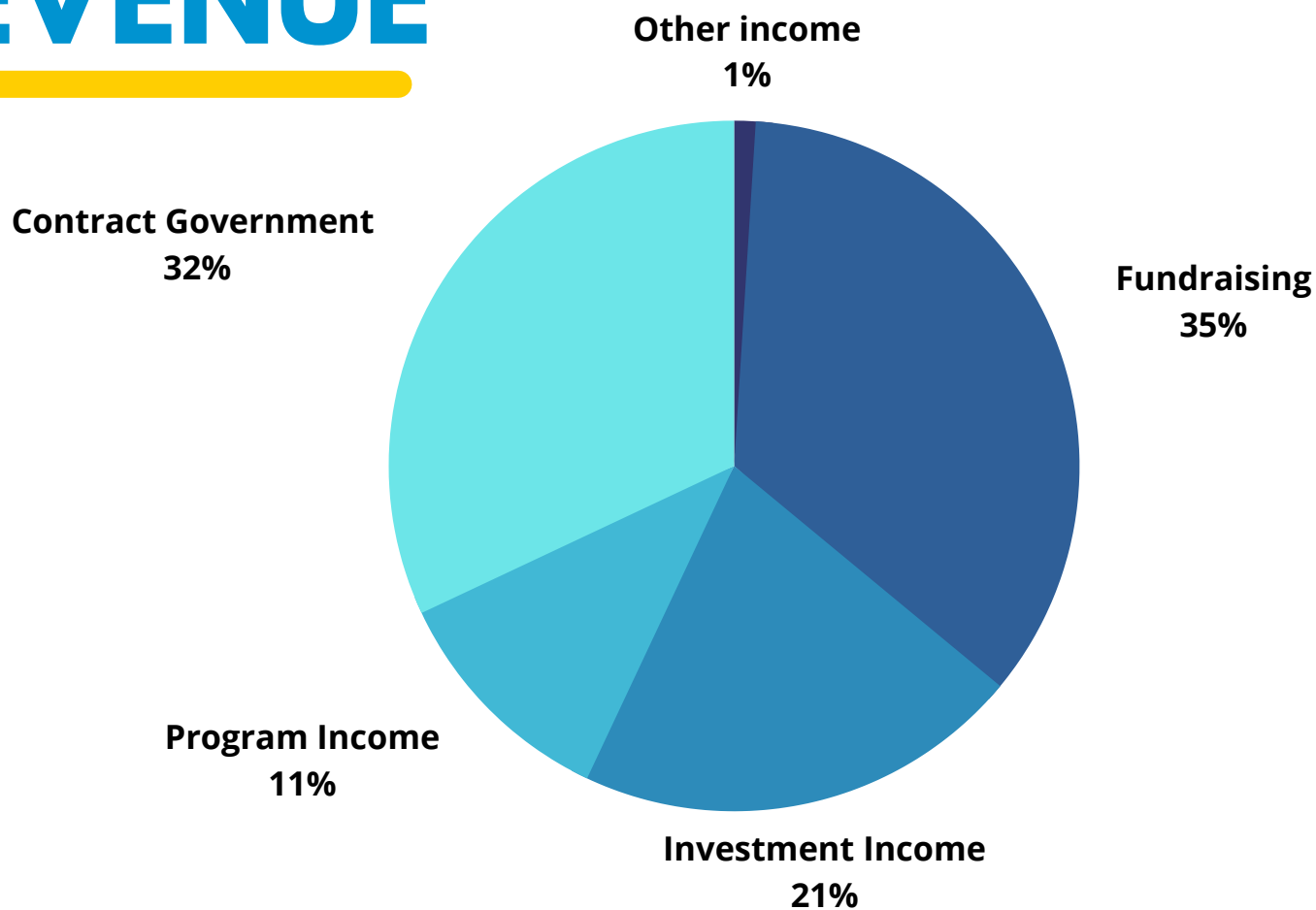
# EXPENSES

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# REVENUE

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The individuals, foundations, and corporate partners who give to our Club are the reason we are able to fulfill our mission of doing whatever it takes to support local youth.

## **\$100,000+**

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We make a life  
by what we give.”***

**- Winston S.  
Churchill**

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