



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF ANNAPOLIS &
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY**

October 24, 2024

Dear Friends & Family,

As I reflect on this past year, I'm filled with immense gratitude and emotion. At the Boys & Girls Clubs of Annapolis & Anne Arundel County (BGCAA), our mission is more than just words, it's a powerful living force that drives everything we do. We're here to inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens.

Every day, we see the impact of our mission in ways big and small—all thanks to your unwavering support.

Still, the challenges our youth face are immense. **1 in 6 young people in the U.S. lives in poverty, and many lack the basic resources to succeed in school and life.** Our own community is not immune. Here in Anne Arundel County, **nearly 16% of young people are living below the poverty line**, and too many teens feel unprepared for adulthood. Studies show that **51% of high school students nationwide don't feel ready for life after graduation**, and the gap has only widened.

At BGCAA, we are committed to closing that gap. Programs and initiatives like **CareerLaunch[®]** and **#TeenTakeover** are not just helping teens explore career options—they're giving them the real-world tools, mentorship, and hands-on experiences they need to thrive. Your support is critical to continuing and expanding these programs that change lives.

Here's what your contributions help make possible:

- **Career Exploration:** Through CareerLaunch[®], teens explore potential careers, assess their skills, and prepare for a future that often feels uncertain. **82% of Club teens express feeling more prepared for their next steps after engaging in career programming.**
- **Financial Literacy:** Our Money Matters program teaches essential financial skills that will guide our teens for life. Research shows that **nearly 25% of youth lack basic financial knowledge**, which makes programs like ours even more important.
- **Job Training:** In the Junior Staff Program, youth gain real-world job experience, preparing them for leadership roles in youth development. **Teens who engage in job readiness programs are 45% more likely to secure employment post-graduation.**
- **Military Careers:** For teens interested in military service, we connect them with local recruiters, offering them a structured path forward.



One teen who stands out to me is Legend, a member of our Wiley H. Bates Clubhouse. Legend is homeschooled, which means he isn't exposed to as much of the social interaction and physical activity his peers get in a traditional school setting. When he first came to us, he was shy, unsure, and reserved. But now? Our staff share he arrives at the Club every day full of energy and excitement. Thanks to **#TeenTakeover**, Legend has found a place where he has friends, stays active and is developing the life skills that will carry him beyond his time at the Club. Legend's journey is just one example of the countless transformations we see, made possible by supporters like you.

Our work extends beyond career preparation and teen programming. We know that to help our young people become well-rounded and resilient, we must also address their emotional and mental well-being. With **70% of teens nationwide reporting high levels of stress** and **nearly 1 in 3 struggling with mental health issues**, this need has never been more urgent. That's why we've expanded our programs to include social and emotional support, with a focus on trauma-informed practices. Through comprehensive training, our staff are better equipped to navigate the challenges our members face, helping them manage stress, build healthy relationships, and develop resilience. By offering patience, understanding, and tailored support, we've created safe spaces where our members can share their feelings, strengthen their interpersonal skills, and set healthy boundaries and expectations.

As we prepare for 2025 and the future, we have big goals, and we can't do it alone. **We are committed to reaching 1,200 registered members—a 20% increase in the youth we currently serve—and we need your help to get there.** Expanding our teen programs, increasing staffing, extending hours, and ensuring that every young person who walks through our doors has access to the support they need will require significant resources.

Your financial support is the lifeline that makes all of this possible. It ensures that BGCAA can continue offering life-changing programs, safe environments, and opportunities that empower the next generation of leaders. Every dollar you give helps us expand our reach and deepens our impact on the youth who need us most. With your help, we can give our kids the future they deserve.

Thank you for standing with us and for believing in the potential of every young person we serve.
With heartfelt gratitude,

Lisa Lindsay-Mondoro
CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Annapolis & Anne Arundel County

P.S. As Franklin D. Roosevelt once said, "We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future." Let's continue building that future together. Please donate today: <https://donorbox.org/annual-appeal-oct2024>



**Checks can be mailed to: BGCAA • 121 South Villa Avenue • Annapolis, MD 21401
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www.BGCAA.org • 410-263-2542 • development@bgcaa.com**