



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE LOWCOUNTRY, INC.

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Whatever it takes to BUILD GREAT FUTURES.





Letter from the CEO

Dear Friends of the Boys & Girls Club of the Lowcountry,

Thank you for your continued support of **our mission to enable all children, especially those who need us the most, reach their full potential as caring and productive citizens.** In my second year as Chief Executive Officer of this 35-year-old organization, I have witnessed tremendous growth and significant change. Youth who attend one of our 10 locations in the Lowcountry are undoubtedly positively impacted from the experience they have and we have countless heartwarming stories that I invite you to read on our social media.

We added two new locations (Whale Branch Elementary and Whale Branch Middle School) to serve more youth (now over 77 members!) We decided to close the doors of the Sheldon site which serving just 8 youth per day – many of which are now attending Whale Branch programming. The business decision allowed us to serve more children in a cost-effective way.

Our caring and dedicated Board Members (of which there are nearly 60 people), staff (over 40 full-time / 20 part-time), committees, and army of volunteers are what makes our organization possible. **I am grateful for those who serve the mission and continue to do the right thing, looking out for the interests of the Club members, every single day.** I am proud to say that we have rising stars in our leadership and the future of our organization is bright with these committed individuals.



With our programs focused on three key areas: Academic & Career Preparedness, Healthy Lifestyles, and Good Character & Citizenship, we are able to offer engaging programming where children thrive and grow. Always more than a babysitting service, we are building great futures here. **We have surpassed 1,100 registered members and have an average daily attendance combined of close to 700 youth.** We serve hot meals on weekdays to bridge the hunger gap, we run enriching summer programming, and we truly love every minute of what we do.

We need your continued support in 2024 and invite you to read through the pages of this annual report to learn more about the successes and numerous opportunities. My goal as the organizations leader is to be honest, transparent, accessible, and to always do the right thing for our Club members and staff. I welcome and invite your feedback at jwentworth@bgclowcountry.org.

Jim Wentworth



OUR NUMBERS



Boys & Girls Clubs of the Lowcountry opened in 1986. As of 12/31/23, we have

- **1,138 registered members**
- **Average daily attendance of 681**
- **Summer average daily attendance of 475**
- **Tens of thousands of meals served!**

OUR LOCATIONS

We have 10 locations with one mission at The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Lowcountry. We operate in 3 distinct regions: Hilton Head, Bluffton/Jasper, and Northern Beaufort County. Our locations are:

- Hilton Head
- Bluffton / Jasper County includes Bluffton, Hardeeville & Ridgeland
- Northern Beaufort County includes Whale Branch Elementary, Whale Branch Middle, Lady's Island, St. Helena Island Elementary, Shanklin Elementary

1 mission across 10 locations: To enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring and responsible citizens



CORE PROGRAMS

ACADEMIC &
CAREER
PREPAREDNESS

HEALTHY
LIFESTYLES

GOOD CHARACTER
AND CITIZENSHIP

WHY BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

Communities thrive where there are clubs! According to a 2019 study by The University of Michigan, **for every \$1 invested in the Boys & Girls Club, \$9.80 of economic benefits are realized within the community.** Studies show that there are **reduced violent crime rates and higher graduation rates.** The national outcome data of The Boys & Girls Club of America tells a story of success when children attend. The facts are:



- 52% of 12th grade Club members express an interest in STEM career, compared with 27% of 12th graders nationally
- 97% of Club teens expect to graduate high school
- 76% of low-income Club members ages 12-18 who attend the Club regularly reported receiving mostly As and Bs, compared to 67% of their peers nationally
- 75% of regularly attending members said they volunteered in their community, Club, school or neighborhood at least once in the past year, with 41% of those volunteering at least one per month.
- 47% of ninth grade Club girls report they exercise daily, compared with 42% of 9th grade girls nationally. 66% of ninth grade Club boys report they exercise daily, compared with 58% of ninth grade boys nationally



Highlights

Great Futures Start Here.

The Boys & Girls Club of the Lowcountry has worked with The Beaufort County School District and has had several meetings discussing the role the organization plays or could play in students lives. The School District and the Lowcountry are aligned in the goal of reaching more youth that could benefit from the organization.

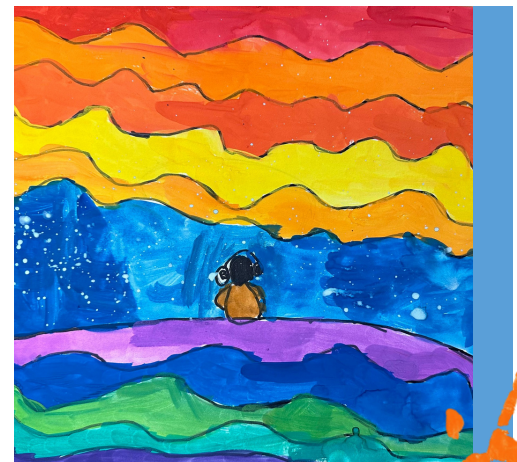
Jasper County Academic Success! Scores were nearly 10% higher on math & ELA than non-members. 14 Club members were tested in Math and ELA in Q1 and Q4. Scores were compared to non-Club members. The total number of members who increased Math grades by 5 points were 51%. vs. non-members who increased were 42.7%. That's 9% higher! The total number of members who increased their ELA grade by 5 points was 38% versus non-members at 30.4%. That's 8% higher! We are proud to show through data that our efforts in academics translate to higher testing scores!



Whale Branch Elementary & Middle School locations launched in August 2023 and quickly grew to 77 members across both locations. More impressive is their average daily attendance, which hovers at 100%! This demonstrates a strong willingness for Club members to attend. Many of our Sheldon location (which closed Summer of 2023) now attend Whale Branch. While initially many were concerned that Sheldon was leaving Club members without a place to go, public opinion quickly changed seeing that the children had a new place to go!



Northern Beaufort County Clubs received a grant from The Arby's Foundation and "Notes of Art", an arts education program, was launched under the leadership of art enthusiast (and Director of Resource Development for NBC), Kim Sullivan. Students across 6 locations created pieces of artwork representative of music.



(Continued on next page)





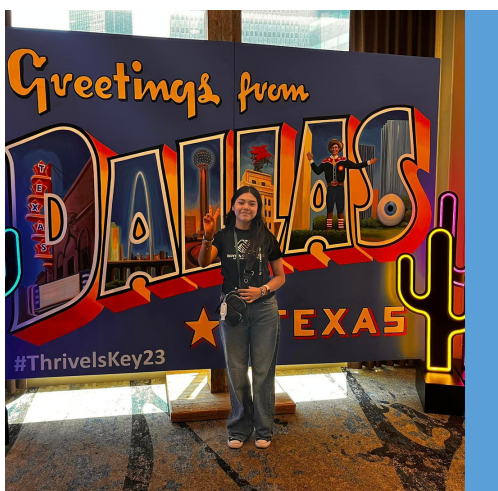
Highlights, continued.

5 finalists from each location were chosen to have their work turned into notecards, posters, t-shirts, and sold at the annual fundraiser, earning thousands of dollars for NBC Clubs!



In May 2023, **Broad River B&G Club** held their annual “Talent at the River” talent show with singing, dancing & art! One Club member’s art was chosen for the cover a book!

Hilton Head Island Club members became “one island helping another island” with their Maui Relief Fundraising Efforts. The Torch Club did a bake sale with cookies, cake, and treats and an extremely creative “aromatherapy sale” with bath bombs and soaps – all handmade. They were able to raise \$1,000 with their efforts to send to the Boys & Girls Club of Maui. This Club also sent members to Dallas, Texas for the Boys & Girls Clubs of America National Keystone Program Conference in May 2023.. Hilton Head Island’s Club took numerous field trips to Station 300, Northridge Cinemas, Adventure Golf, & Hilton Head Escape Room. Members love fishing at Hilton Head Island’s Club and enjoyed participating in Lantern Making in November.



The Bluffton Club, now in its 26th year, had a banner year with 386 members and serving 3,143 meals per month! They opened a brand-new playground thanks to numerous donors and the Dwaine Willet Foundation. They added homeschool and adult ESL programs to fill the building during non-Club operating hours. They had 15 graduates in their Dwaine Willet CareerLaunch program and their Literacy program is back and bigger than ever, focusing on teaching children to read at or above grade level in an exciting and engaging format. Plus, the Club was able to launch their Rollerskating program in the gym and have their Annual Holiday extravaganza where the gym was filled with bikes, books, clothes, & toys for children.



YOUTH OF THE YEAR

The Youth of Year is a national recognition program from The Boys & Girls Club of America and considered the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a Club Member. Each year, Clubs nominate and send outstanding youth to compete against other outstanding youth for the title. During the process, they learn how to give speeches, learn poise, and learn leadership. **We are proud to spotlight the 2023-2024 Lowcountry Youth of the Year: Joseph.**

Joseph, age 16, is a 11th grade student at May River High School and has been an active member of the Boys & Girls Club of Bluffton for the past 8 years where he serves as Vice President of the Keystone Club. Joseph has participated in a numerous of Club programs such as Career Launch, Explorers' LEAD, Torch Club, Passport to Manhood, Junior Staff Training program, and more! He has a passion for Art with University of Tampa as his tentative college choice.



RISING LEADERSHIP

STAFF STARS

Everyone knows the pillars of any organizations' success are its leaders. Under mentorship of long time employees, these new leaders are emerging as stars in their respective locations and roles. Bright and energetic with fresh ideas, Jaala Miller, Ryan Wise, and Pam Castle are bringing a new approach to programming while stimulating and engaging our youth.



JAALA MILLER:
BLUFFTON



RYAN WISE: HILTON
HEAD ISLAND



PAMELA CASTLE:
LOWCOUNTRY

2023 Financial Summary

2023 OPERATING BUDGET

\$4,300,000

It cost the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Lowcountry \$4.3 Million dollars to operate in 2023

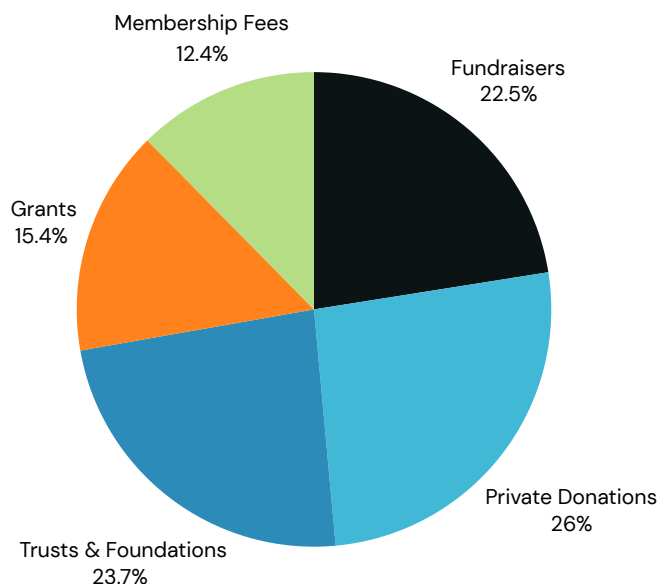
ORGANIZATION EXPENSES

The largest expense line item we have is staffing at \$2,300,000 as we are in the business of people and it takes staff to serve our kids safely with a student to staff ratio (mandatory 20 to 1).

Part-Time: 40 Staff
Full-Time: 20 Staff
Unpaid Volunteers: 100+

FINANCIAL SUPPORT SOURCES

\$950,000	FUNDRAISERS
\$1,100,000	PRIVATE DONATIONS
\$1,000,000	FOUNDATIONS & TRUSTS
\$650,000	GRANTS
\$523,000	MEMBERSHIP FEES



FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS

In 2023, we raised over \$950,000 in public community fundraisers! These are not only a great way to raise money for our organization, but they raise support and foster loyalty among our donors. **Par Fore Kids 19th Annual Golf Outing** to benefit the Bluffton Club netted nearly \$78,000. Over 144 players joined at the prestigious May River Golf Course in Palmetto Bluff to raise awareness and funds for Bluffton members. **The Annual Ted Flach Memorial Candy Cane Classic** took place in December at the Sea Pines Country Club to raise over \$100,000 for Hilton Head members with hundreds playing golf, tennis, and pickleball despite poor weather conditions. Supporter danced the night away at the **Annual Gala for Hilton Head at The Westin** in March 2023 and **Annual Notes Music Festival for Northern Beaufort County** in January 2023. Two cycling events occurred: **Pedal Hilton Head Island** in May 2023 with 725 riders (a record!) and **Bike Bluffton**, now in its 2nd year, raised over \$70,000 in November. A new event this year was the **Lowcountry Pickleball Tournament** at Margaritaville!

OUR 2024 STRATEGIC INITIATIVES



INCREASE AWARENESS ABOUT THE
LOWCOUNTRY: 10 LOCATIONS
WITH 1 MISSION

COLLABORATION & CLEAR VISION
OF MARKETING, FUNDRAISING, AND
PLANNING OF ALL CLUBS

GROW MEMBERSHIP BY 10% AND
INCREASING AVERAGE DAILY
ATTENDANCE BY 10%

INCREASE TEEN CENTER
MEMBERSHIP & AVERAGE DAILY
ATTENDANCE

ADD AT LEAST 1 SCHOOL BASED
LOCATION IN 2024

ADD NATIONAL PROGRAMMING
WHERE POSSIBLE





Thank you to our members and families! We feel lucky to serve you and create memories that last a lifetime. We are proud to build great futures with you. They start here!

Thank you to our staff, volunteers, supporters, and donors. Your time, money, generosity and contributions (both large and small) *made a difference* in the lives of over 1,100 youth in our area.

Let's continue to serve the mission in 2024!



10 Pinckney Colony Road, Suite 103
Bluffton, SC 29910



843-379-5430



www.bgclowcountry.org



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE LOWCOUNTRY, INC.