



Executive Summary

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities (BGCTC) holds equity as a core value. Through our long and rich history, experience, and expertise, BGCTC is leading a transformative change in the opportunity equation for Twin Cities youth. We believe that every young person deserves the chance to realize his or her full potential and achieve a great future. Our K-12 Pathways to Success continuum is an inclusive model that helps prepare ALL young people succeed in school, develop leadership skills, maintain healthy lifestyles, and build career aspirations.

On a daily basis, BGCTC serves as a critical support system as many of our kids and families have limited resources and are often experiencing job instability, food insecurity, and a lack of permanent housing. Evolving data shows the COVID-19 outbreak will have disproportionate health and economic impacts on the communities we serve. School closures, work disruptions, and quarantines strike hard at individuals and families who already lack resources and access to services.

Although Clubs are currently closed for in-person youth programming, BGCTC has a responsibility during this time to increase supports for our families as they now face additional challenges. We are currently keeping all staff employed to support the needs of youth and families with family wellness check-ins, connection to and distribution of food, virtual delivery of youth development programs, and planning for reopening our Clubs and Voyageur Environmental Center.

The greatest challenge will come when we begin to emerge from this crisis. We anticipate an increased demand for free/low-cost out-of-school time programming due to employment disruptions in the high-need communities we serve.

COVID-19 IMPACT REPORT

APRIL 21, 2020

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**INCREASED SUPPORTS
TO YOUTH AND FAMILIES**

FAMILY MEAL KITS

VIRTUAL LEARNING

LOOKING AHEAD

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Increased Supports to Youth and Families

The safety of our kids and families is ALWAYS our number one priority. BGCTC is doing everything possible to keep our kids, staff, and volunteers protected from the spread of COVID-19. During this time we continue to monitor needs in our communities and are increasing supports for our youth and families as they now face additional challenges with school closures, work disruptions, and potential illness and health concerns. We are activating with the following supports:



- *Family wellness check-ins.* BGCTC staff members continue to connect with each one of our families to make sure they have the supports they need during this difficult time. These calls focus on immediate needs related to shelter, food, technology needs, and medical care.
- *Connection to and distribution of food.* BGCTC has been working diligently with food distributors, grocers, and restaurants to provide weekly meal packages (11,000+ meals) for our families and connect families to additional nutrition resources.
- *Delivery of youth development programs as a distance learning model.* This includes K-12 academic support, ensuring digital connectivity and distribution of education materials and supplies to youth and families.



3,456

*total family wellness
check-ins conducted
March 18 - April 17*



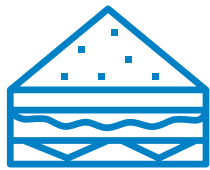
34,460

*total meals served
during the weeks of
April 1, 8, and 15*

Family Meal Kits

BGCTC is offering free weekly meal packages to Club families to address the increased food insecurities kids and families are facing with work disruptions and school closures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This expanded meal program – Family Meal Kits – provides nutritious family-style meals and is part of BGCTC’s multi-faceted response plan and ongoing commitment to provide resources that support caregivers as well as children.

The Family Meal Kits program launched April 1. Boxes of pre-sorted meal components will be distributed at eight Club locations each Wednesday, with each box containing enough food to provide five dinners for a family of four. Households with more than four members will receive additional boxes. Families can sign up to receive a Family Meal Kit by contacting a Club location in their community.



1,529

*meals served in Clubs
per week prior to
closures*



660+

*families served per
week since April 1*



11,486

*meals served per
week since April 1*

We are grateful to our Family Meal Kits supporters:

- Cub Foods
- Grandma's Bakery
- Jerry & Diane Carlson
- Kevin & Jennifer Berg
- Kowalski's Markets
- MATTERbox Snack Packs
- The Minneapolis Foundation
- Minnesota Vikings & the Wilf family
- Minnesota Timberwolves Head Coach Ryan Saunders & wife Hayley
- Otto Bremer Trust
- Papa John's Pizza
- Pratt Industries & Minnesota Corrugated Box, Inc.
- Teresa & Joel Pfister Family Foundation
- T-Mobile

Virtual Learning

BGCTC launched a virtual learning platform on April 16. The first weeks of this new programming channel via Google Classroom focus on welcoming and engaging youth and families, orientation to virtual learning opportunities and communicating virtual learning expectations, along with providing daily academic support. Additionally, education packets and education supplies are also distributed to families weekly along with the Family Meal Kits. We will roll out additional virtual learning program modules in future weeks.



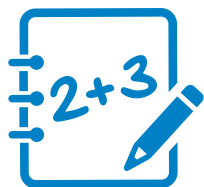
K-6 program modules include:

- Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) activities including beginning check-in time (how are you feeling?) and closing reflection time
- Movement games
- Healthy meal preparation demonstrations
- Daily challenges (e.g., 3 marker challenge coloring contest)
- Family game night



Teen program modules include:

- Weekly social-emotional support check-ins
- Virtual tutoring
- Social media engagement: Weekly podcasts, daily movement challenges, cooking & gardening tutorials, teen game nights, TikTok Tuesdays, and more
- Financial education classes
- Career and job skills training
- Together Raising Awareness for Indian Life (T.R.A.I.L.) diabetes prevention
- Career Tech credit offered to Patrick Henry High School students as part of distance learning



188

*Kids & Families
virtual experiences
since March 18*



142

*Teen Pathways
virtual experiences
since March 18*

Looking Ahead

BGCTC staff members are working on program and operations plans for reopening of Clubs and Voyageur as soon as possible, most likely with a small-group youth programming model. We expect that Clubs will open for full-day programming before schools reopen. The model will add expenses to our operating budget for staffing and additional meals, essentially ramping expenses to our full-day summer program model much earlier than we assumed when our budget was set.

We are so grateful to everyone in the community for all of your continued support. We remain inspired by your generosity and hopeful that, despite these challenging times, together we will continue to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.



How You Can Help

While social distancing measures are currently limiting volunteer engagement at the Clubs, please consider supporting BGCTC in the following ways:

- Donate non-perishable food items, hygiene and cleaning supplies, school supplies, games, and activities for Club kids
- Sew or donate masks for Club staff
- Promote our organization on social media to build awareness
- Share employment resources for families
- Write encouraging notes to our kids or Club staff

To make an in-kind donation of any of the items listed above within the coming weeks and months, please contact Molly Hemes at mhemes@bgc-tc.org to arrange a drop-off time at one of our Clubs.

Give Now!

- Online: <https://boysandgirls.org/give/>
- By phone: Text OURKIDS to 243725
- By mail:

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities
690 Jackson St.
Saint Paul, MN 55130

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