



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF THE NORTH COUNTRY
GREAT FUTURES START **HERE.**



ANNUAL REPORT 2014

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ERIC FRYDMAN

After 5 years here at the Club, it still amazes me how much fun the kids have each and every day. I continuously hear from parents how much joy their child has at the BGCNC. Whether it's a new member or a child who has been attending the Club for years, each of them will agree, it's a great place to hang out, a fantastic place to make new friends and a "cool" place to learn new things.

Nevertheless, I often fear the repeated activities and the same structured programs will eventually become uninteresting to them. I struggle to figure out a way to expand our offerings without it costing us additional funding.

One avenue we continue to pursue are student volunteers. This past summer, we were excited to have so many student volunteers attend each day; most of whom were at one point, "Club Kids" themselves. On any given day, we had between four and eight volunteers from grades 8-10.

As each year goes by, we have continued to serve more and more children from the North Country and this year was no different. Throughout the past year, we served just over 200 children between our afterschool program, school vacation camps, summer camp and our participation in the Lakeway Elementary Winter Activity Program. However, with additional members, come additional costs?

The Club continues to be a place where children from all over the North Country can truly be themselves, have an opportunity to experience activities they would never otherwise participate in, and meet new boys & girls that will create friends for life. Think about this as you consider making a donation to the Boys & Girls Club of the North Country. We are here for your children, your neighbor's children and your future community.

Providing a fun, safe, positive place for all children of the North Country, under the guidance of caring adults.

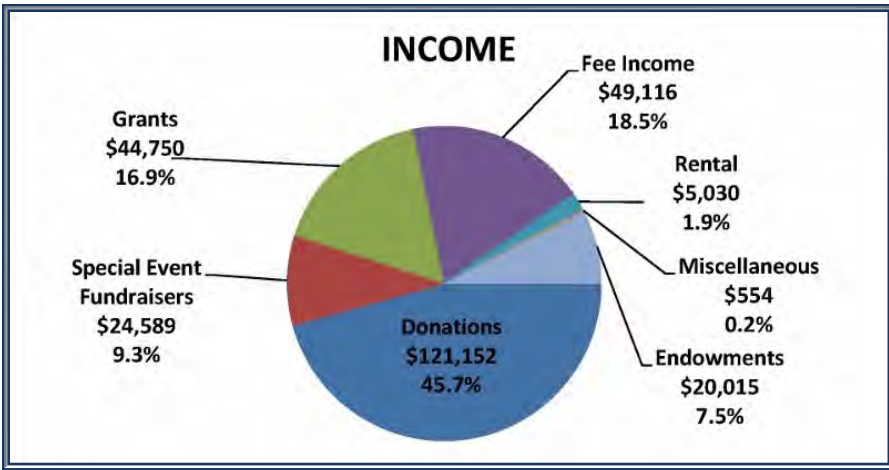


NOW — MORE THAN EVER —

We need your help to continue our critically important mission. Please consider supporting the BGCNC today. Every gift no matter the amount makes a difference in the lives of the children of the North Country!

Board of Directors: William Bedor, CPA, Chairman • Warren West, Vice Chairman
Jeff Woodward, Treasurer • Edith McKown, Secretary • Tina Bedor • Joseph Ilacqua • Jill Kimball
Kevin O'Brien • Kathe Tortorice • Eric Frydman, Executive Director

PO Box 111 • Littleton, NH 03561 • 603.838.5954 • BGCNorthCountry.org



Income & Expenses For Fiscal Year Ending June 2014

Healthy Snacks Sponsors

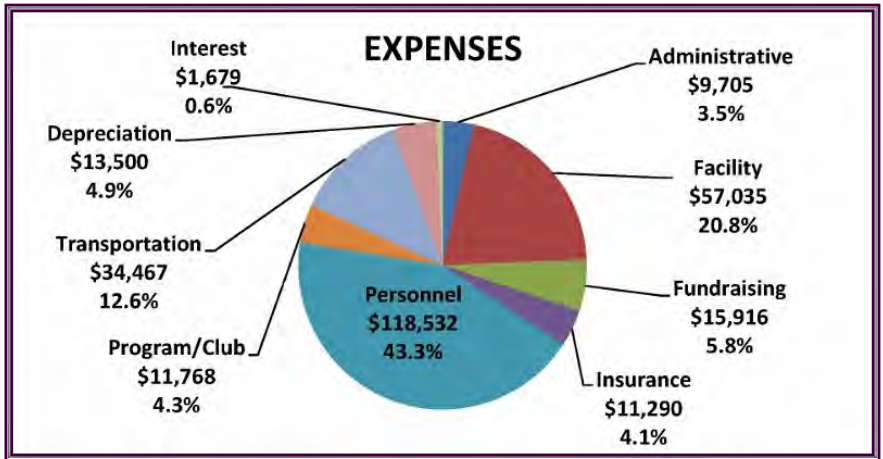


A Special Thank You To:

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ASSOCIATES, COMMITTEE MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS

We appreciate your dedication to the Club. Thank you for being part of the BGCNC Team!

Karen Abruscato	Kathy Jablonski	Jim Norton	Adam Smith
Rick Bidgood	Dave Lambert	Trish O'Brien	Jen Stroker
Donna Blanchette	Barbara Langworthy	Carlene Quinn	Jon Stroker
Mell Brooks	Dick Langworthy	Cheryl Quintal	Bob Tortorice
Ellie Brown	Meglyn Lavoie	Deb Rexford	Susan Wall
Kim DeLutis	Dan Marsh	Phil Rivera	Kevin Walsh
Joyce Dionne	Nancy Martland	Dick Robie	Lisa Woodward
Alison Dodd	Richard Massimilla	John Scott	Cecily Yarosh
Tiffany Hamilton	Shannon McKee	Kaio Scott	All High School
Todd Hodge	Todd McKee	Ed Shanshala	Volunteers

Nesting Boxes Projects

This past year, the Club received a wildlife action grant to assist Club members with the materials necessary to build nesting boxes for the birds in our area. The project was led by Katie Lopus, who has a degree in Wildlife Management and is the head counselor at the Club.

The Club members were the ones who first suggested the bird project. As part of their responsibilities, the members determined the type of nest boxes to build and picked out the best plants and shrubs which were then planted near the spot where the mounting poles were installed. Club members will be responsible for the cleaning and on going maintenance of the nest boxes and feeders. Each child involved is acquiring increased respect with regards to wildlife.

We want to give a thank you to Todd McKee for his carpentry skills. We also want to thank the Easton, NH Conservation Commission for their involvement of this Wildlife Project and most importantly thanks to Homes for Wildlife who got us started.



A Mother's Story....Hi, my name is Nina Brown. My husband, Doug and I, have had many challenges through the years raising our gifted son. There has been many times where I have cried for my son. The Boys and Girls Club is not one of those times.

When Tyler was young, we thought we were exceptional parents. We were doing everything right. We noticed he was very bright reading at 2 ½ and doing Egyptian Hieroglyphics and Astronomy at age 3. He shined with school work but what we noticed is, he had a hard time finding friends.

In Kindergarten, we noticed major changes; while other kids grouped together, Tyler stood alone. He often got into trouble trying to play with others. A visit to Dartmouth Hitchcock revealed he had a form of Autism. We were advised he would need socialization skills and a plan for Tyler's school was formulated. However, Lisbon Regional refused to implement the plan because Tyler is a straight A student.

If it was not for a flyer from school advertising the BGC, we honestly feel Tyler would not be where he is right now. We went down and introduced ourselves, excited that Tyler could finally get access for socialization training, something he needed desperately. We met Mike Ferrant, the BGC director at the time. He read Tyler's report from Dartmouth and felt Tyler would grow within the Club. Tyler was welcome to become a member.

A Volunteers Story....My name is Tyler Brown and I have a form of Autism called Asperger's. I am high functioning which affects the way I perceive and read social situations. Growing up has not been easy. As a young child, I had difficulty making friends. Early school years were very hard for me. While other kids were establishing friendships, I tried, but was only shunned. No matter what I did, I could not fit in, I still don't. I am usually the brunt of jokes in class. Lunchtime was hard. You see, for years no one would sit with me or they would move once I sat at their table. I am labeled as being weird or called the nerd. No one wants to be my friend or if they do, they are afraid they won't fit into their groups. In elementary school, I only had two kids I called friends. I still don't get invited to friend's birthdays at least not like others in my class.

Today not much has changed in school. I am in 8th grade, still don't have any friends and I still am called weird in school. I tell you this not to feel sorry for me, but to show you what it's like for a child with a disorder. No one wants to be your friend. However, I am one of the lucky ones. I am lucky because from 2nd grade on, I have had access to the BGCNC. If it was not for them, I would not have any kids that talk to me; my socializing would be minimal at best.

When I first came to the BGC, I was very nervous. I thought now instead of 20+ kids judging me, I had 30 to 40. Not being able to read their social cues scared me. On my first day, I was shown around the Club by a staff member and was introduced to a bunch of new kids. These were kids from surrounding towns who did not know me; they had no preconceived ideas of who I was. I had a chance for them to like me. Staff at the BGC played games with us and modeled behaviors for all of us to learn from. The BGC teaches teamwork, friendship and unity as one. We learn to make decisions as a unit, how to problem solve as a unit. We're taught community matters, but most of all we're taught

I remember his first day. He rode the bus to the Club with other Lisbon kids. He was so proud of himself, he would finally belong somewhere. When I picked him up that night, Mike pulled me to the side and told me some of the kids were complaining about Tyler. My heart sunk fearing Tyler would not be accepted yet again. I will never forget Mike telling me, it's not going to be a problem. Those kids were told that's in the past, Tyler is a welcome Club member and he will be accepted like everyone else.

Finally, Tyler had someone else fighting in his corner; he had a chance to shine. We recognize the BGC as a contributing factor in allowing Tyler to learn socialization skills. If not for this Club, Tyler would be another forgotten child. Instead, he is a caring well-adjusted, young man who knows who he is and where he is going. Tyler is still laughed at or told to shut up when he talks in school. He still is teased; but when he is at the Club, I never worry. I know the Boys and Girls Club is a positive caring environment that will always foster the best in him and any child in this region. It brings communities and kids together for the greater good. This is a gem we need to keep running for future generations.



no one person is better than the other. This positive environment has taught me so much; it also has given me the confidence to be me. I have learned how to make friends and I have learned how to give back what I have been taught to the younger Club members and my community.

Over the summer, I was a staff volunteer working with the younger kids. After all these years, I still had a hard time being accepted by my volunteer peers. I learned it's not easy directing kids and more importantly, that the younger Club kids looked up to me. Because of this, I knew I needed to be that role model to them like someone did for me years ago.

If it was not for the BGC and the lessons I learned at the Club on socializing, I wouldn't know how it feels for someone to look up to me as a nice person and friend. I plan to continue giving back what I have received from the BGC; not only as a staff volunteer, but as an honest, caring, vocal supporter of my peers in school. I am fortunate I have parents who support me and have taught me right from wrong. I can tell you first hand that this is not always the case in homes. I have been on the receiving end of bullies for years; I see how kids act every day in school. The BGC teaches acceptance, compassion, teamwork, and life skills to kids that might never have access to these invaluable skills. I hope you see just how important this Club has been to me and to the other kids in our community.





A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR: BILL BEDOR

Another amazing year at the Boys & Girls Club of the North Country! Looking back to previous year's reports, we're almost starting to sound like the proverbial broken record. But it's true, exciting things happen all the time at the Club! That it's all about the kids goes without saying, and we continue to increase membership and help more deserving families. The more young people we help to become productive and successful members of society, the better our success - and it continues to grow in leaps and bounds.

Having said that, the only way we can succeed in our mission is to provide a solid foundation of finance, governance, and management. Last year Kevin told you of the major step we made of becoming independently chartered by the Boys & Girls Club of America (BGCA). In our first year as a fully independent Club, we have:

- 1) made a significant financial turnaround after a couple tough years (thanks to you!),
- 2) transitioned from a start-up operational Board of Directors to a Board that works through committees to successfully lead and govern the organization,
- 3) expended the significant time and effort necessary to become fully integrated in to the BGCA system.

These may be boring items, but they are absolutely key to our ability to take great care of our members now and far in to the future, our commitment to being good stewards of your generosity, and being community leaders in the area of caring for our children.

Obviously our job is far from over. There are many more children to serve, especially in age groups and towns where we don't currently have a significant presence. We're committed to expanding our reach and helping the absolute maximum number of children possible. In order to do so, of course, we need resources. So please continue to dig deep and give the most you can both in financial terms and of your time. Your previous assistance has been very much appreciated and your future support will mean everything to our children's futures.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Volunteer

- ◆ Serve on a committee or board
- ◆ Teach a skill or hobby
- ◆ Help with homework



Gift

- ◆ Your goods or services
- ◆ Your trade skills or expertise
- ◆ Used sporting equipment, games, items



Donate

- ◆ Cash towards expenses and events
- ◆ Stocks & Bonds
- ◆ Bequest money or property in your will or list us as a beneficiary

