



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

METRO DENVER

Summer Impact Report & Innovative Strategies for the Fall

September 2020



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METRO DENVER

Creating Connections & Consistency

The past six months brought **unimaginable change** to the lives of every American. Since the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic on March 11, the staggering ripple effects have impacted our economy, our livelihood, our businesses, our families, and our kids.

The difficult truth is this: the negative impacts of the pandemic are felt disproportionately by the children and families we serve at Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver.



For nearly 60 years, we have been there for kids and families when and where they need us most.

For our Club parents and caregivers, the majority of whom are essential workers, resources to provide food, technology, and safety for kids are in extremely short supply – or nonexistent. So, every single day since March 11, we have been **listening to our families and adapting** our operations model to meet the needs of our community.

We provided essential support and programming for our Club kids and families over the summer – and we won't stop now.

In June and July, we continued providing **emergency family assistance**, **reopened 9 Clubs** for in-person programming, provided **virtual programming for all of our 10,000 members**, and cultivated **pivotal partnerships** with the City and County of Denver, our public school districts, nonprofits, and foundations.

Now, we have started the school year with responsive, hybrid models that support both remote learning services and our classic afterschool services.

In a year that's been isolating and unpredictable, we are focused on creating connections and consistency for our Club kids. Our path forward will continue that focus. Because we will do **whatever it takes** to ensure our Club kids can achieve their greatest potential.

Essential Support Over the Summer

We reopened nine of our Clubs, responded to the most urgent needs of our Club families, and provided safe, engaging programming.

This summer, we were thrilled to do a **phased reopening** of nine of our neighborhood Clubs. With a new program delivery model that integrated comprehensive health and safety practices, we **served our Club members both in-person and virtually**. In response to our limited indoor capacity, we piloted an **outdoor Club experience** for the Northeast Park Hill community. And in parallel with summer programming, our dedicated staff continued to provide emergency family assistance, from tele-therapy to groceries.

Club Programming

- We reopened 9 of our Club locations with all safety precautions in place, prioritizing our frequent attenders and children of essential workers.
- All 20 Clubs provided virtual programming, engaging our kids with programming focused on academics, literacy, healthy lifestyles, the arts, and leadership.



Summer in the Park

- We offered free outdoor programming for kids in Skyland Park, located near our Vickers Club at the Nancy P. Anschutz Center. Activities included yoga, slacklining, water games and arts and crafts.
- Partner organizations like Sand Creek Regional Greenway, Lincoln Hills Cares and Colorado Mountain Club helped provide a fresh experience for kids every day.



Emergency Family Assistance

- Our Emergency Family Assistance Fund allowed us to provide essentials for the Club families who were most in need.
- Our social work team continued to provide necessary in-person and virtual mental health support for families.

THE IMPACT

- Over the summer, we served 1,000 Club kids in person and made virtual programming available to *all* of our 10,000 active Club members.
- Between March and July, we distributed more than \$55,000 worth of food, emergency aid and rental assistance.



Playing a Vital Role in School Year Success

We began the school year with responsive, hybrid models that support both remote learning services and our classic afterschool services.

As the school year continues, we are being **flexible and responsive** to serve unique community needs and combat learning loss. In addition to our afterschool and **virtual programming**, we are offering **remote learning services** to guide children during their virtual school days, and **extended learning services** to support teachers and staff in several school-based Clubs. We have also expanded support for communities outside of our normal footprint with a **pop-up learning center**, made possible by a partnership with Denver Parks & Recreation and the City and County of Denver.

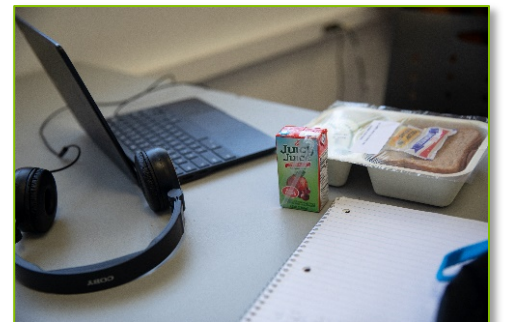
Remote Learning Services

- We've added daytime remote learning services at 13 of our Clubs, providing one-on-one support, enrichment programming and a focused learning environment for our Club kids during their virtual school days.
- This includes a flexible pop-up model at Athmar Recreation Center, which expands our service area to SW Denver.



Extended Learning Services

- In three of our elementary school-based Clubs, our staff is providing vital real-time support for teachers and students.
- Our staff are leading virtual programming, assisting teachers in virtual lessons, and supporting enrichment activities.



Partnerships & Community Outreach

- Food Bank of the Rockies provides all of our daytime learners with lunch and snack, and Denver Public Library is delivering books and STEM activity kits for our members across the metro.
- We continue connecting with families through our community outreach services, delivering essential food and supplies.

THE IMPACT

- With more than 20 locations across the metro area, we are providing essential remote learning services, extended learning services, and afterschool programming for kids who need us most.
- Through our recent Healthy Food for Denver Kids grant, we are able to provide 220 weekend food boxes for our families each week.



The Path Forward: Innovation and Flexibility

We are prepared to serve all learning models executed by our school districts, and will continue to be flexible and responsive to the needs of our Club kids.

As the school year evolves, Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver will **continue adapting** our models to meet the most urgent and evolving needs of our Club kids and our community. This may require further expansion of remote learning services, expanded hours, hybrid models and flexible funding.

Our commitment to our Club kids and supporters is that we will be **responsive, flexible and communicative** as needs change. The foundations of our mission and our programming remain: we are a safe, trusted place for all children in our community to learn, grow and thrive.

Responsive Support for In-Person Learning

- Many school districts are now signaling they will return to in-person learning in October; we are prepared to support these transitions.
- Multiple support models will still be required as we have hybrid, remote only, and in-person learning in varying districts.

Flexibility to Support Community Needs

- As the needs of our kids, community and school districts change daily, and sometimes hourly, we will continue to listen and adapt.
- Going forward, we will continue to advocate for flexible use of funds and grants in order to meet these rapidly evolving needs.

Foundational Programming & Mental Health Supports

- Our foundational programming will continue, with focus on our three priority outcome areas: Academics & Careers, Character & Leadership, and Healthy Lifestyles.
- Our outcome-driven programming will be integrated into both our school-day learning services and our traditional afterschool programs.
- Our seven full-time social workers will enlist all Club staff to help kids overcome the growing mental health challenges resulting from food insecurity, homelessness and lack of peer interaction.



Meet A'Tina

A'tina is a seven year-old member at our Cope Club. In her single parent household, her dad is trying to make ends meet while providing for A'Tina and her siblings. The Club has been a refuge for her throughout the pandemic, providing essential support for her family.

The start of the school year in August brought new challenges for A'tina when she joined our remote learning center at Cope. Whether it is using new technology for the first time, trying to stay focused, or having your face on a video screen in front of your peers, these challenges are difficult for all ages.

For A'tina, sitting at her computer all day felt impossible. She shares, "I was really stressed and nervous." Having to sit quietly at her computer and listen to her teacher was overwhelming.

Cope staff came together to brainstorm how they could best help this young member with her virtual schooling. After trying a variety of different set-ups, the team found that having her separated from other kids – with a staff member to support her one-on-one – would help her the most.



After a week of the new set-up, A'tina is now enjoying school. She feels more confident turning on her camera so her teachers and classmates can see her during class and she is actively participating. She told us, with a big smile, "I really like sitting just with Andy. He really helps me and he's nice."

We're thrilled to be able to support young members like A'tina as they begin this school year, providing consistency and necessary guidance through these challenging times.

Thank you!

For nearly 60 years, Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver has navigated times of difficulty and crisis to provide safe places and essential resources for our Club kids. And our belief is as strong today as it was six months ago: that all kids will achieve their greatest potential. Because we will do **whatever it takes** to meet the needs of our kids, families and the Denver community.

Thank you for joining us.

