Dear Friends,

2021 challenged us to do exactly what we encourage our Club kids to do every single day: **imagine a bright future**. Like the kids we have served for more than 60 years, we imagined a world that was healthy, safe, joyful, and bright. And then we strived to create that world every single day inside of our Clubs.

**Our Clubs have been safe spaces** where Denver’s kids can build confidence, have fun, and uncover their incredible potential for decades. In 2021, spaces that supported emotional and mental health for kids were more important than ever as the prolonged global pandemic impacted their young lives in pronounced and sometimes harmful ways.

Among third through eighth graders, math and reading levels were all lower than normal in the fall of 2021 (Lewis et al., 2021). Youth mental and behavioral health also reached a critical point (Shivaram, 2021). And, after two years of pivoting to a virtual world, children and teens have lost ground in terms of physical activity and health (Pelletier et al., 2021).

In direct response, Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver continued our focus on academic programs and literacy skills to make up for lost time in the classroom. We ensured a social worker was present in every Club at least one time per week, engaging kids in one-on-one interventions and social-emotional learning groups. And, to make up for sedentary time spent in isolation and learning on computers, we made sure our Club members maintained healthy habits through Club sports leagues, outdoor education programming, daily meals, and education and mentoring around substance use.

Throughout it all, the doors of our Clubs remained open, and Denver’s kids found stability, comfort, safety, and normalcy in their Clubs. In a world of virtual learning and postponed plans, our staff warmly welcomed Club members each day, ready to guide and support them through the ups and downs of learning and growing during a pandemic. The sense of belonging found at the Club helped members once again imagine a world of unlimited possibilities. And it is the continued support of our donors and community members that brings that world to life.

As we take a breath from the two-year pandemic and look ahead to how we can continue to best serve kids in our post-COVID world, we extend our deepest gratitude to each of you. Thank you for your unwavering belief in our Club members and your generous support in creating bright futures for the kids of Metro Denver.

We invite you to read our Annual Report to honor what we were able to do together in 2021, as we look forward to the limitless possibilities in the years to come.

With gratitude,

Erin Porteous
Chief Executive Officer

David Hurtado
Chairman of the Board

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WHO WE ARE

VISION

We believe all kids will have the opportunity to achieve their greatest potential.

VALUES

Respect
We recognize that each person has equal, intrinsic worth and deserves to be treated with dignity.

Integrity
We operate with honesty and hold ourselves accountable for all words and actions.

Excellence
We set high expectations and work hard to achieve them by engaging in continuous learning and improvement.

Teamwork
We collaborate openly on common goals to leverage the expanded knowledge of our entire community.

Innovation
We seek out and embrace new possibilities that can increase our impact.

MISSION

We provide our Club Members with a safe, supportive, fun, and enriching environment that inspires and empowers them to achieve their greatest potential.
Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver operates 21 neighborhood Clubs and one summer camp. Seven locations are freestanding Clubs and 14 locations are school-based Clubs. The 6 districts we serve are: Denver Public Schools, Jefferson County Public Schools, Aurora Public Schools, Westminster Public Schools, Adams 14 School District, and 27J Schools.
Our Club members navigated a challenging year with perspective and resilience, reminding us that inspiration and empowerment go both ways at Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver.

Meet Malachi

15 years old, Cole Boys & Girls Club

“What does the Club mean to me?

In my fourth year as a Club member, I am a peer leader building skills I never would have imagined when I first came here. I’ve met wonderful people and formed lasting relationships. I have experienced enriching new things in new places. While others might be at home in front of the TV, or bored, or getting into trouble, I was in this environment learning social and emotional norms, reflecting, and volunteering. I was getting a head start into my future.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver is a part of the whole person I have become. The Club is a place where everyone belongs. I have met more different people here than anywhere else I have been. At Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver we are all members – and we are all welcome to be who we want to be. We have community agreements about how we will allow ourselves to be treated and how we treat each other. Along with supportive community leaders, we make the program our own.

Major events have happened over the last few years. Now, reflecting on these events, we didn’t want to acknowledge it, but we were scared. I, Malachi, am addressing my feelings about the last few years through community engagement, and I am taking advantage of the opportunity these times provide to serve my community. The Club is a shimmer of hope for someone who may have lost sight of what hope even means anymore.

I am saying yes to Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver because the Club invites me and my siblings in and offers a break from the realities of today – even if for a moment.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver is the key to community healing. It’s our home away from home, and we all belong.”
## Membership

Our membership numbers in 2021 reflected our reduced capacity during the pandemic.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Number of Active Members</th>
<th>Registered Members</th>
<th>Average Daily Attendance</th>
<th>Frequent Attenders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3242</td>
<td>4023</td>
<td>829</td>
<td>1942</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Active members are kids who attended the Club at least once in the 2021 program year; registered members are registered but may not have attended. Frequent attenders are kids who, on average, attend the club 1.5 times per week or more.

## Programming & Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Locations</th>
<th>Meals served per day</th>
<th>Visits to Gates Camp</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>680</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Mental & Behavioral Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individual sessions with a member of our mental health team</th>
<th>Family sessions with a member of our mental health team</th>
<th>Small group sessions with our mental health team</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>467</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>1084</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Program locations include summer-only sites, new locations, and past locations.
Day in and day out, our staff opened the Clubs’ doors with optimism and commitment to our members. We returned that commitment with a focus on retention, growth, and promotion. In 2021, 61% of our promotions were internal, creating opportunities for staff members like Giselle.

Meet Giselle

Program Manager, Jefferson County Boys & Girls Club

“I am a former Club member and have been a staff member at our Jefferson County Club for the past 12 years. I grew up at the Club, and it had an incredibly positive impact on my life. I realized I wanted to make the same impact.

In fact, I became an artist thanks to George, the Art Specialist at Owen Club. With George’s mentorship, the art room became my second home, a place where I discovered how to express myself through art. I continue to do art to this day because it is my escape and my happiness; joy that I found at the Club.

In the years I’ve worked in the Clubs, I progressed from serving as a Junior Staff member, to a Club Access Assistant, to a Health Specialist.

Now, as a Program Manager, I encourage members to find their passion and try new things every day, just like I did.

Seeing the smiles on their faces after overcoming challenging situations is more motivation for me to do my best every day at my Club. Our team has great communication and positivity, and that also drives me to do my job to the best of my ability every day.”

A piece of Giselle’s artwork
Academics & Careers

2021 brought incredible challenges for all of Denver’s schoolchildren. With math and reading levels falling across the board*, at Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver we focused on providing responsive academic support in 2021. Our Club members maintained their academic proficiency in the face of significant obstacles.

![Graph showing 92% of senior Club members graduated from high school in 2021 and 83% of Club members are pursuing specific academic and career goals.]

Character & Leadership

As leaders, coaches, mentors, and guides, it is our job at Boys & Girls Clubs to use our dedication, resources, and passion to open doors for kids and with kids. In 2021, we helped Club members envision their greatest potential and turn those dreams into real possibilities through our evidence-based character, leadership, and community service programming.

![Graph showing 90% of Club members say they would stand up for what is right, even if their friends disagreed and 83% of Club members believe they can make a difference in their community.]


All member data sourced from the 2021 BGCA NYOI Survey
Healthy Lifestyles

More than ever before, Denver’s kids needed the chance to move and be active, consistent meals, and the opportunity to make healthy choices. Our Club members maintained healthy habits in 2021 while having fun through Club sports leagues, outdoor education programming, daily meals, and education and mentoring around substance use.

- **95%** of Club members abstained from vaping
- **83%** of Club members have never had alcohol, a rate 35% lower than their Denver peers

Mental Health

In 2021, Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver began implementing a new mental health model to provide support to all Clubs, members, and staff across the organization. Five Master of Social Work clinicians on the mental health team responded to the mental, emotional, and behavioral needs of our Club members.

- **96%** of Club members report they experience a sense of emotional safety in the Club
- **94%** of Club members say they make connections with trusted adults in the Club

*All member data sourced from the 2021 BGCA NYOI Survey*
Johnson Elementary Boys & Girls Club

Since 2015, more than 100 children per year have utilized our after-school services at Johnson Elementary School in southwest Denver. The partnership between Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver and Johnson Elementary is a model of true partnership. Johnson Elementary Boys & Girls Club, created in collaboration with the school, is a hub in the community that ensures neighborhood children have a safe and inspiring place to spend their after school time.

Principal Elliott Lepert said, "We pride ourselves in being a true community school. And Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver is the center of what makes that community school program work."

In addition to our signature afterschool programming, the Club’s school-day programs complement classroom learning for Johnson Elementary students. Our after-school programs are offered five days a week and provide essential support for working families in the neighborhood, making the transition from school to after school seamless for kids and parents.

Club parent Jessica shared, “I don’t know what I would do without [the Club]. I am so thankful that it’s here, and I could speak for a lot of parents that we are so thankful and grateful. If not, I don’t think we could work, and then, you know, that affects our children.”

Programs include a wide range of enrichment activities for kids in grades K-5, with a focus on social-emotional learning. To support teachers and academic success, staff lead programs for English Language Learners, along with STEM programs, athletics, and recess during the school day.

88% of Johnson Elementary School students are part of the free-and-reduced lunch program. Through our partnership with Food Bank of the Rockies, Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver provides all members with dinner and a snack, making absolutely sure that our kids are fed and able to focus, learn, and be active.

At Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver, we know children learn and grow best in a safe environment where they not only have their basic needs met but where they also experience a sense of belonging with a supportive community surrounding them.

Lepert said, “I don’t see a way that Johnson is Johnson – where the school is what we want it to be – without this partnership.”

We are incredibly thankful to all of our school partners for our work together in 2021, and we look forward to collaborating and growing for years to come.
Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver’s Board of Directors is made up of community and business leaders dedicated to helping young people succeed. The Board of Directors provides fiscal management, strategic direction, and helps build a network of like-minded community members and organizations that can help the organization achieve its mission. The following are all independent voting members of Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver’s Board of Directors.

**Chairman:** David M. Hurtado, Western Union  
**Vice-Chairman:** Valeri Pappas, Davis & Ceriani PC  
**Secretary:** Nancy Thonen, Community Leader

Dan Ball, RBC Wealth Management  
Jim Bershof, OZ Architecture of Denver, P.C.  
Brittany Bowlen, The Denver Broncos  
Marc Braunstein, Retired  
Christopher Cardenas, Xcel Energy  
Max Caulkins, Thrumcap Capital  
Bob J. Clark, 3 Bear Energy, LLC  
Jeanne Collopy, Community Leader  
Marc Diamant, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP  
Avrum Elmakis, CLMBR  
Jason Fletcher, KORE Software  
Sidney Gates, Community Leader  
Heather Han, US Bank  
Larry Harmsen, Prologis  
Brian Holland, Mortenson Construction  
Mark Hopkins, Rallyday Partners  
Jordan Jhabvala, Charles Schwab (ex-officio)  
Chad Jones, Charles Schwab  
Franz Kettwig, Emporia Home Services  
Andy Klein, Westside Investment Partners  
Laurie Korneffel, Maxar Technologies  
Rafat Shehadeh, Prologis  
RJ McArthur, Plante Moran  
Brian McDonald, Morgan Stanley  
Marc McDonough, Community Leader  
Zach McGuire, MasTec Advanced Technologies  
Andrew Morrison, Community Leader  
Jeff Nelligan, Morgan Stanley Wealth Management  
Amy Parsons, Mozzafiato  
Brent Powers, Powers Products Company  
Chris Rapp, Apex IT  
Steve Richards, Mile High Outdoor Advertising  
Stephanie Rideau, Comcast  
Warren Schlichting, Poly  
Marty Schmitz, Citywide Banks of Colorado, Inc.  
Benjamin Schulein, La Luna Resources  
Robert M. Shopneck, Pinetree Financial Partners  
Joe Slavik, Howell Construction  
Joseph C. Smith, Jr., Bartlit Beck, LLP  
Walker Stapleton, SonomaWest Holdings  
Kent Stemper, BluSky Restoration Contractors, Inc.  
Chris Stoeber, The Integer Group  
Michael Touff, Richmond American Homes  
Joe Van Haselen, MidWestOne  
Lon Welsh, Your Castle Real Estate
SPONSORS & PARTNERS

Clubhouse Sponsors

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- Cope Boys & Girls Club
- Denver Broncos Boys & Girls Club
- Liberty Global
- McDonald's
- Denver Broncos
- Owen Boys & Girls Club
- Suncor Boys & Girls Club
- Colorado Rockies
- Suncor

Corporate Partners

The support of our corporate and foundation partners allows us to do what we do best: provide kids access to opportunities and break down barriers so that they can reach their greatest potential. Join our valued partners who help us advance our work by committing their time, talent and financial resources to make a difference in kids’ lives.

Learn More About Our Corporate Partners
Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver is proud to be one of Mile High United Way’s Strategic Investment Partners. By providing safe, fun, and positive Club locations where young people can learn and grow after school and throughout the summer, we are helping kids and teens get the tools they need to learn, grow and thrive – thanks to Mile High United Way’s investment.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver is among the highest rated nonprofit organizations. We have earned GuideStar’s Platinum Seal of Transparency by voluntarily sharing the measures of progress and results used to pursue our mission.

For more than 60 years, our continuous commitment to financial health and transparency has been foundational in developing our reputation as one of the most trusted youth-serving organizations in Colorado.
Thank You

In 2021, we continued our journey from resilience to renewal thanks to the commitment of our supporters, community partners, donors, and all of those who believe in our mission. Today, we look to the future with optimism, humility, and the knowledge that together we can inspire and empower every Club kid to achieve their greatest potential.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver
2017 W 9th Ave, Denver, CO 80204
(303) 892 - 9200