



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
METRO DENVER

Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver

Press Kit



Table of Contents

| | |
|----------------|--------|
| History | Page 2 |
| Leadership | Page 3 |
| Programs | Page 3 |
| Our Members | Page 4 |
| Logos & Photos | Page 5 |



Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver History

Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver has been changing lives for more than 60 years. What began as a small operation in a warehouse on 8th Avenue in Denver has grown into an organization with 25 Clubs across Metro Denver and a summer camp in Ward, Colorado.

The first Denver Boys Club opened in 1961 at 910 West 8th Avenue under the leadership of Bill Cope, a Boys Club veteran who had started several Clubs in California. The new Club was far from luxurious, but boys immediately saw it as a safe, fun space to spend their time outside of school. Despite having a budget of just \$28,000 and only two full-time employees, the Club recruited more than 800 members during its inaugural year.

The demand for safe, enriching after-school programs spurred the opening of new Clubs and rapid growth during the organization's first decade. In the span of just two years, both the Arthur E. Johnson Boys Club and J. Churchill Owen Boys Club opened, serving a wider range of boys and young men across the city. During the 1980s, the Clubs continued to expand with the opening of its first Aurora location, the Boettcher Boys Club, as well as the Steele Branch in Northwest Denver. In 1991, a 35,000-square-foot office building in what is now the Highlands was purchased to house the growing administrative team.

In 1990, Boys Clubs of Denver became Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver. Nine girls joined the Club the day the change went into effect: November 1, 1990. A fundraising campaign was created to provide additional operating support and fund extensive renovations at the organization's facilities in order to provide equal Club access to girls.

In 2016, Erin Porteous, a 10-year veteran of Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver and standing Chief Development Officer, was promoted to Chief Executive Officer, making her the fifth CEO in 56 years and the first female CEO in the organization's history. Her vision and passion as CEO have enabled the growth of Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver from 15 Clubs to 25.

Today, Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver continues to open doors for kids and with kids, addressing our community's most pressing needs and biggest aspirations. At each step along this journey, community leaders have stepped forward to invest in the future.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver Leadership



Erin Porteous **Chief Executive Officer**

Erin Porteous joined the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver in 2006 and has been a vital part of the organization’s leadership, improving the scale and quality of its programs while exceeding its revenue goals. She was named CEO in October 2016. She brings a

deep experience and commitment to serving low-income youth and developing strong community partnerships to the organization. Prior to being named CEO, Erin served as the Chief Development Officer leading all fundraising, marketing and communication efforts, and special events for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver. Under her leadership, Boys & Girls Clubs has continued to improve both the scale and quality of the special events and marketing programs while exceeding revenue goals annually. Prior to working at Boys & Girls Clubs, Erin had an established tenure in the non-profit sector working for the University of Colorado, and also Frederik Meijer Gardens, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Erin has a deep passion for serving those in need both here in Denver and also globally, including her participation in long-term volunteer projects in Brazil and South Africa.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver Programs

Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver is one of the largest and most comprehensive youth development organizations in Colorado, providing after-school and summer programming to thousands of kids each year. At the Club, kids find safe spaces to grow, develop, and play; access social-emotional learning (SEL) support; build relationships with peers, mentors, and trusted adults; and participate in fun and educationally-enriching activities.

Program Areas

Academic Success

Academic programs give kids a space to explore, experiment, and expand on the skills learned during the school day. Educationally-enriching activities in every area of the Club – whether in the art room, gym, or tech lab – are intentionally designed to foster skill-building and spark kids’ passion for learning.

Character & Leadership

Our member-driven programs equip young leaders with the tools they need to take initiative in ways that are meaningful to them. Leadership clubs, peer mentoring, and service opportunities encourage kids to develop into responsible, confident, caring leaders in their Clubs, neighborhoods, and beyond.

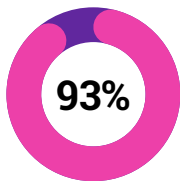
Healthy Lifestyles

At Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver, kids of all ages practice building healthy habits for their minds and bodies. Every day we provide kids with the tools they need to envision and build a healthy life and say no to risky behaviors.

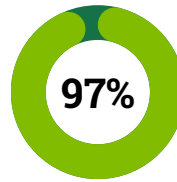
Mental Health

Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver has a team of full-time mental health professionals to support the mental health needs of kids in our community. Each of our 25 Clubs has a mental health team member present multiple times each week to facilitate individual connection sessions and small social-emotional learning groups that support a wide range of mental health needs.

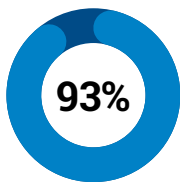
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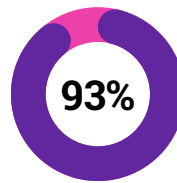
93% of Club members said the adults at their Club care about them*



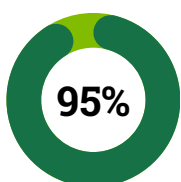
97% of Club members participating in leadership clubs said the program helped build their confidence, character, collaboration, and leadership skills*



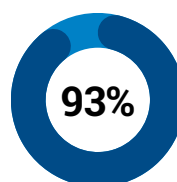
93% of Club members said they can identify how their actions and decisions impact others*



93% of third to fifth graders said Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver inspires them to learn new things and supports their learning*



95% of Club members said they increased knowledge around healthy behaviors*



93% of Club members said they feel better because of the support they received from the mental health team member at their Club*

*School year 2022-2023 National Youth Outcomes Initiative Member Survey data

Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver Members

Our members are vibrant, diverse, and often live in communities where access to housing, healthy food, and basic resources is inconsistent. The families we serve are often those who have been historically marginalized.

- 46% of Club Members live in single-parent households with a median annual household income of \$30,000 for a family with an average of three children.
- 62% of our members are Hispanic or Latino and 21% are Black or African American.
- 91% of our members qualify for free or reduced lunch.

The primary languages spoken in our Club members' homes are English and Spanish, followed by Burmese and Swahili. Across all 25 Clubs, over 12 primary languages are spoken at members' homes.

Fearless, Kind, and Smart

Meet Xochitl

On a hot September afternoon, Xochitl flies across the monkey bars on the “big playground” at Boston Boys & Girls Club in Aurora. She is strong and funny and a great friend – rallying the other girls at the Club into a game of hot lava monster. She makes sure everyone has a turn to be in charge with the cry, “Now it’s your turn!” echoing across the playground in shrieking excitement.

Xochitl loves to come to the Club, it is where she plays with her friends, teases her brother and cousins, and has the opportunity to learn and grow. At eight years old, some of her favorite things are soccer, math, and helping her teachers and the staff at the Club.

Xochitl isn't afraid to brag about herself a little bit: “My teachers said I've been doing good and getting a lot of things right. I like subtraction and I've been doing big numbers – like three-digit numbers.” Sometimes, as women, we lose the skill of singing our own praises, but at the Club, Xochitl is learning to use her voice.



She is also building strong relationships with her peers and the Club staff, helping Ms. Cynthia and Ms. Brooke as well as assisting the younger members who look up to her.

Not every day is perfect for Xochitl. Sometimes she fights with her cousins, sometimes one of her friends is sad, but each day she comes to the Club, Xochitl is taking steps towards achieving her greatest potential. Seeing the strength and bravery she has at just eight years old, we can't wait to see what her future holds!

Logos & Photos

Additional media available upon request. Please email pr@bgcmd.org for access to further materials.



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