

WHO WE ARE At Boys & Girls Clubs of Chaffee County (BGCCC), we have a **BOLD** vision: that success is within reach of every child. We believe every young person deserves an accessible, safe place to learn and grow, ongoing relationships with caring adult professionals, life-enhancing programs, character development experiences, and hope and opportunity for the future. We provide after-school and summer programming that educates, inspires and enriches young people's lives.

OUR MISSION To inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring and responsible citizens. We accomplish this by offering programs in three core areas: character and leadership development, academic success, and healthy lifestyles. We are the **GOLD STANDARD IN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT** in Chaffee County. We serve over 800 children and youth annually throughout Chaffee County. We operate facilities in Salida and Buena Vista that host over 140 kids per day in a safe environment providing the kind of programs that prepare the youth of today to become the leaders of tomorrow. Our doors are open five days a week, 48 weeks per year. Since opening in 2005 the BGCCC has served 7,495 youth and nearly one of three school-aged youth in Chaffee County has participated in Club or outreach programming.

THE CRISES FACING OUR YOUTH

The risks to Chaffee County's vulnerable children are real. The most recent Healthy Kids Colorado Survey of Chaffee County students identified several risk factors including adults' favorable attitudes toward substance use and the availability and acceptability of alcohol and drug use. This increases as students move from middle school to high school. Also, the occurrence of depression is increasing. The Boys & Girls Clubs offer youth **A POSITIVE, SAFE AND SECURE ENVIRONMENT**, where programs such as "SMART Moves Prevention" teach youth alternatives to cope with the negative influences of our society.

In these tough economic times, families are under great stress and strain. Our youth and community need the Clubs more than ever. While parents are worried about staying employed, staying healthy and putting food on the table, they can rely on the Clubs to ensure that their children are in a safe environment and not left alone at home. In 2020 we have seen our daily attendance rise due to the excitement about the new building in Salida as former members return and we welcome the children of families who have never used our services before.

THE CLUB CHANGES LIVES

Imagine what all those families would do if their kids did not have the Boys & Girls Club. Where would those children go?

Take the case of **CARLOS BARRIENTOS**, a member of our Club since he was 8 years old and our 2020 Youth of the Year. Carlos's extended family are immigrants from Guatemala and his father has a stucco business that he runs with his brothers. One day Carlos got a call from his mom that his dad and his uncles had been sent back to Guatemala.

Carlos had to provide emotional support for his mother while she worked very hard to bring her husband home to help run their business.

During that time Carlos, having been a regular at the Club for 9 years, depended on Club staff to provide support. He participated in programs like KHAN Math Academy, STEM activities and Torch Club's Social Action Project. (Carlos helped convince Salida City Council to make all city parks non-smoking.) After his paperwork was rectified, Carlos's father is back running the business. Carlos, a very humble 17-year-old, is now able to focus on being **AN OUTSTANDING MEMBER OF OUR COMMUNITY**. He is third in his class and has been accepted into several Colorado universities, as well as NYU. He credits his strong family and our Boys & Girls Club for his success.

REAL IMPACT In fact, the results from the Boys & Girls Clubs of America's

Annual Alumni Survey conducted by Harris Interactive show that 57% of Club alumni credit the Club with **“SAVING THEIR LIVES.”** Seventy-five percent say the Club helped them learn **CRITICAL LEADERSHIP SKILLS.** The Club’s impact on kids and families is significant. Our kids have a safe, educational, fun place to go every day after school. When they are at the Clubs, it doesn’t matter if their parents have a job or not. It doesn’t matter if they don’t have a computer. It doesn’t matter if they are not wearing designer clothes. All that matters is there are people who care about them and provide inspiring programs that are fun and build good character along the way.

We provide a safe environment for youth of all backgrounds to come together – **A PLACE THEY CAN CALL THEIR OWN.** Our programs and staff nurture young peoples’ sense of belonging, usefulness, influence, self-esteem and competence, giving them the skills, knowledge and support to overcome obstacles and achieve their goals.

OUR GOALS

Our commitment to Chaffee County is that even during these challenging times, we will provide:

➔ **INCREASED ACADEMIC SUCCESS:** *Help to ensure our members graduate from high school and are post-high school ready to pursue college, trade school, a military commitment or employment.*

➔ **IMPROVED GOOD CHARACTER & CITIZENSHIP:** *Increased levels of integrity (knowing right from wrong), resilience, being engaged in the community.*

➔ **INCREASED HEALTHY LIFESTYLES:** *Making healthy diet and food choices as well as a lifelong commitment to fitness.*

HOW YOU CAN HELP To meet the **GROWING** needs and numbers of our youth to benefit from these programs, **NEW FACILITIES ARE NEEDED.** With your help and investment, we can serve not only current members, but reach even more youth, more often, with quality programming in quality spaces.

Recently, we were fortunate enough to secure a commercial property for our Salida Club. The end goal is to pay off the mortgage, to complete the interior and exterior improvements, and to provide staff, members and volunteers with a safe and functional facility.

In Buena Vista, we have an exciting opportunity for a new home. We are in the early stages of due diligence with the plan of building a Club facility on town-owned property adjacent to Avery Parsons Elementary School. The proximity to Avery Parsons and the generosity by the Town of Buena Vista have created an extraordinary sense of commitment to this project.

Building on the **MOMENTUM** we have within the communities of Salida and Buena Vista, we will need our friends and all of our generous donors to help provide these new homes for our Boys & Girls Clubs’ members.

SUPPORTING YOUTH IN OUR COMMUNITIES is vital for the betterment of our county, our state, and this nation. Please join us in our quest to provide a safe, accessible, and positive place for the development of our youth and consider an investment in the Boys & Girls Clubs of Chaffee County. Your gift today can change the life of a child and the future of our community.

Be the **One**
who makes
a difference!