



# COVID-19 IMPACT REPORT

*Thanks to your support, the doors to Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley (BGCTNV) have remained open, while our schools have closed. We have extended services to include children of essential workers as well as extending our service hours. We have continued our services and met the needs of our members and their families when they needed us most.*

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## Providing Opportunities for Success During COVID-19

***Reading is a critical skill for success throughout life. Research has shown that students who develop strong reading skills at an early age are much more likely to graduate from high school and seek postsecondary education and training. Reading itself is one of the most commonly and intensively used skills among all types of jobs across the entire economy, including jobs that require no education or training beyond high school.***



Reading also plays a key role in the development of soft skills, such as critical analysis and effective communication, which are profoundly important for success in work and life. Currently, only 34.7% of Tennessee’s third graders are reading proficiently. Students who cannot read at grade level by the end of third grade very rarely catch up in later grades. This lack of reading skills compounds as they grow older. For example, children who are not reading at grade level by the end of third grade are four times more likely to drop out of high school.

When schools closed at the start of the pandemic, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley knew that it was imperative to continue to work with Club members to maintain their reading and language arts levels. We forged ahead with new and innovative programs, such as the Tennessee Tutoring Corps, to help guide our members in the absence of school. With schools back in session, we now focus on our core academic programs in order to provide Club members with opportunities to improve their reading skills, and ensure they are proficient in reading by third grade through programs such as Rookie Readers, Power Hour, Project Learn, Summer Brain Gain, and 21st Century.

In Power Hour, Clubs work with members to increase their reading skills. Youth have access to hundreds of books to read so that they can meet accelerated reading goals and complete nightly reading logs for their classroom. Members have staff and tutors available to help them meet their goals for school, by helping them practice fluency and sight word recognition. In addition, members use websites like Study Island and Exact Path to reinforce reading skills.

Project Learn is a comprehensive program strategy based on research showing that students do much better in school when they spend their non-school hours engaged in fun, but academically beneficial activities. Through Project Learn, Club staff use all the areas and programs in the Club to create opportunities for these high-yield learning activities, which include leisure reading, writing activities, discussions with knowledgeable adults, helping others, homework help and tutoring, and games that develop young people’s cognitive skills. Project Learn has been proven to boost the academic performance of Club members.

With the daily challenges posed by COVID-19, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley remains committed to adapting to the “new normal” and working to provide Club members with a safe environment that also sets them up for success in life through creative programs and caring staff.



# 17

**Clubs are open**

Haslam Family Club  
University

Regal Entertainment Group  
Teen Center

DeBusk Family Club  
(formerly Halls/Powell)

Vestal Club

Northridge Crossing Club

Middlebrook Club

Montgomery Village Club

Walter P. Taylor Club

Western Heights Club

Northwest Middle Club

Norwood Elementary Club

South Knoxville Elementary  
Club

Lonsdale Elementary Club

Fort Craig Club

Loudon County Club

Lake City Club

Clinton Elementary Club



# 1,294

members, many of whom are children of essential workers. **For a total of 2,658 members served.** We are working with **UT Medical Center, Blount Memorial Hospital,** and the **Knox County Sheriff's Office** to provide childcare for their employees.



# MESH

*Our Member Emotional & Social Health program works to:*

- Promote social and emotional development; including competencies like teamwork, self-awareness, coping strategies, self-control, empathy, and perseverance.

*During the COVID-19 response we have continued these efforts with activities including:*

- **Character Club** that focused on skills like teamwork, patience, trustworthiness, communication, and friendship that help build resiliency in youth.
- **Fitness Club** which promoted conversations about physical, mental, and emotional wellness.

# 331

- The MESH team has directly served **331 Club members.**



# 141,325

Breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snacks served to Club members.

# 1,215

**Family food boxes** provided for our members and their families for the weekend.



**Effective programs to keep Club members actively engaged** in learning and career development when they might not be otherwise. Our **College & Career Readiness Initiative** provides academic counseling and support, as well as career exploration activities and camps.

**Pipeline**

**YOUTH FORCE**  
GEARING UP FOR SUCCESS



**TRiO**  
TALENT SEARCH

*\*Statistics are based on services and programming from March 13 – October 31, 2020.*



# YAI

Our **Youth Arts Initiative** is offering virtual, digital, and on-site programming for our members.

To learn more about our mission or to make a donation, visit us online at **BGCTNV.ORG**