

# Case for Support for Boys & Girls Clubs of Chaffee County

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## Building Bright Futures in Chaffee County

The best way to predict the future is to create it.

At Boys & Girls Clubs of Chaffee County (BGCCC), we focus on building bright futures for the young people who pass through our doors. We operate two Clubs in Chaffee County, Colorado, in the towns of Salida and Buena Vista. BGCCC serves more than 950 kids, ages 6 to 18, each year (nearly one in every three local youth).

Since 2005, Boys & Girls Clubs of Chaffee County has played a critical role in the lives of our area's young people. We know that trusted, caring adults and a safe place to go after school can transform a child's life. Through a combination of careful financial stewardship; a passionate staff, board and volunteers; and a compelling mission, **BGCCC has served more than 10,000 kids** (through 2023) as our county has continued to change and grow.

### Challenges facing our community

Chaffee County has long been known for its wealth of outdoor recreation opportunities and picturesque setting in the Rocky Mountains. As is the trend in many other mountain-destination communities, the increasing popularity of our area coupled with the spike in prices during the Covid-19 pandemic has driven up prices in the local housing market. According to the 2022 update of the Chaffee County Housing Needs Assessment (HNA), "the home ownership market is out of reach of all but 9% of county households" and "almost half of renters are cost burdened" (spending 30% or more of their gross income on housing).

Additionally, Chaffee County has a lack of affordable childcare options, and those options that do exist, often have a long wait list. Our Clubs are the primary option for after-school care in our area. Faced with rising costs and limited community resources, **working families need our Clubs now more than ever.**

We don't want cost to be a barrier to children coming to our Clubs. It costs \$1,250 to serve one youth for a full year at our Clubs, **but with the help of generous donors we keep our annual membership fee at only \$100**, which covers participation in the after-school program (3:30 – 6:30 p.m. in Salida, 3-7 p.m. in Buena Vista). We charge just \$10/day for a full day (8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.) when school is not in session and for our full-day summer program.

Our staff is also subjected to the high cost of living locally and the lack of affordable housing. Recruiting and retaining high-quality Club professionals is a constant challenge. **Donations help support us in offering competitive salaries so we can hire and retain exceptional employees.**

Another local concern is youth mental health, which was identified by Chaffee County residents as one of the area's top health concerns in the Chaffee County Department of Public Health's 2021

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Health Assessment. Our Clubs offer members a host of programs that provide our youth with fun activities that align with our priority of building healthy lifestyles.

**When school is out, Boys & Girls Club is in.** Our Clubs are open on average 250 days a year. An investment in our Clubs enables us to do whatever it takes to meet the challenges faced by our community.

### BGCCC meets community needs

Our goal at Boys and Girls Clubs of Chaffee County is to provide programs that support our youth and set them on the path for a **great future**. BGCCC is a leader in the community effort to support local youth through the challenges they face. We provide a broad range of activities and services designed to help members reach their full potential including homework help, mentoring, sports and fitness, arts, STEM, service and leadership opportunities, and much more.

Through collaboration with our community partners and schools, we continue to evolve our programming and physical infrastructure to encourage greater participation in our Clubs and serve our members as best we can.

Currently, we offer **more than 60 programs and activities** to our members throughout the year. In 2023:

- 280 members participated in STEM programs like rocketry, inspiring our members to dream up creative solutions to challenges, and preparing them for the workforce of the future.
- 250 kids built resiliency skills through SMART Moves (Skills, Mastery and Resiliency Training). This prevention and education program addresses problems such as drug and alcohol use and premature sexual activity.
- 81 kids were recognized for leadership through Youth of the Year and Kid of the Month.
- 75% of our members took part in Spark Fitness, helping to combat childhood obesity and encourage healthy living.



### Scarlette

• member since 2022

"My favorite part of the Club is hanging out with my friends and doing art with Ms. Gianna. I even won our Spring Break art contest this year, I was very **proud of myself.**"



## About Our Clubs

Our **mission** is to inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

Our **vision** is to provide a world-class Club Experience that assures success is within reach of every young person who enters our doors.

BGCCC's **core beliefs** include offering our members:

- A safe place to learn and grow
- Ongoing relationships with caring, adult professionals
- Life-enhancing and character-development experiences
- Hope and opportunity

Through after-school and summer programs, BGCCC strives to help our members reach their full potential through a program of youth development that emphasizes:

- Academic success and career preparedness
- Good character and citizenship
- Healthy lifestyles

Our professionally trained staff and dedicated volunteers open doors for kids so they can explore new ideas, learn new skills, and share new experiences together.

We believe **every kid** has what it takes. The **mission, vision and core beliefs** of Boys & Girls Clubs fuel our commitment to promoting a safe, positive and **inclusive** environment for all. BGCCC supports all children and teens – of every race, ethnicity, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, ability, socioeconomic status and religion – in reaching their full potential.

## Our membership

- 951 kids served in 2023
- Membership breakdown – Ages 6-9: 59%, Ages 10-12: 31%, Ages 13-18: 10%
- 54% male, 46% female
- 99% on track to graduate high school on time
- 86% plan to go to college or a trade school



**Zak**

• member since 2016

"I've been coming to the Club forever, **I don't remember life before it!** I always loved playing sports, now I like coaching the little kids."

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## Return on Investment

BGCCC is part of a national organization, the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, which operates more than 4,000 Clubs across the United States. Year after year, the Chronicle of Philanthropy has ranked Boys & Girls Clubs of America as #1 among youth-serving organizations.

**BGCCC is the Gold Standard in youth development in Chaffee County. We are the largest and most vital youth-development organization in our area.** By providing a safe, enriching environment for youth, ages 6 to 18, we open doors for kids and help build great futures.

82¢ of every donated dollar is invested directly in our kids and programs! Our support comes from foundation grants (14%), individual and local business investments (41%), government grants (30%), and fees (15%).

As a prevention-based youth development program, our Clubs improve young people's lives and in turn, their communities. Our programs help keep kids out of the criminal justice system and help build resiliency skills to best deal with life's challenges.

**We rely on community support to keep costs low and provide quality services to families that need them most.** Membership to our Clubs costs just \$100 per year. **Investing in BGCCC** can give hundreds of kids a boost that will last a lifetime.



## CHAFFEE COUNTY YOUTH OF THE YEAR **Irene Alvarez**

*Club Member since 2013*

"Club staff have always believed in me and now I believe in myself. I am somebody, in my rural town, in my school, my community, and especially at my Boys & Girls Club."

## Giving Opportunities

Boys & Girls Clubs of Chaffee County serve more than 140 kids each day. For just \$1,250 a year, you can sponsor a member for the 256 days we are open annually. Any donation amount helps our kids grow and thrive.



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**Here are some ways your donation can be put to work!**

- \$100 sponsors new fitness equipment for one Club.
- \$300 gives 15 kids a field trip to a Denver museum.
- \$500 can sponsor two drones for our Drone Zone coding program.
- \$1,250 supports one child for a full year of Club.
- \$5,000 can provide art supplies for one Club for a full year of art programming.
- \$10,000 can provide STEM opportunities for one Club for a year.

Cash contributions to Boys & Girls Clubs of Chaffee County qualify for the 50% Colorado Child Care Contribution Tax Credit. (Consult your tax advisor for specifics.)

We seek your investment to help us continue providing the programs and services that help prepare the next generation for the challenges of the future. Please consider joining us as a catalyst for community change with your thoughtful investment. Your gift to Boys & Girls Clubs of Chaffee County makes our work possible.

Every child deserves a great future – with a safe place to go and the support to successfully progress through school and graduate with a viable plan. With your support, this is not a possibility, but a certainty.

**[Please consider giving our kids a boost that can last a lifetime.](#)**



**Ricky**

• member since 2019

“The Club is open all the time, so I’m here most days. I love tech and learning about science from Mr. Kuper. When I grow up, **I want to go to college** like Mr. Kuper does.”