



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF AMERICA

NATIVE  
SERVICES



# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2020



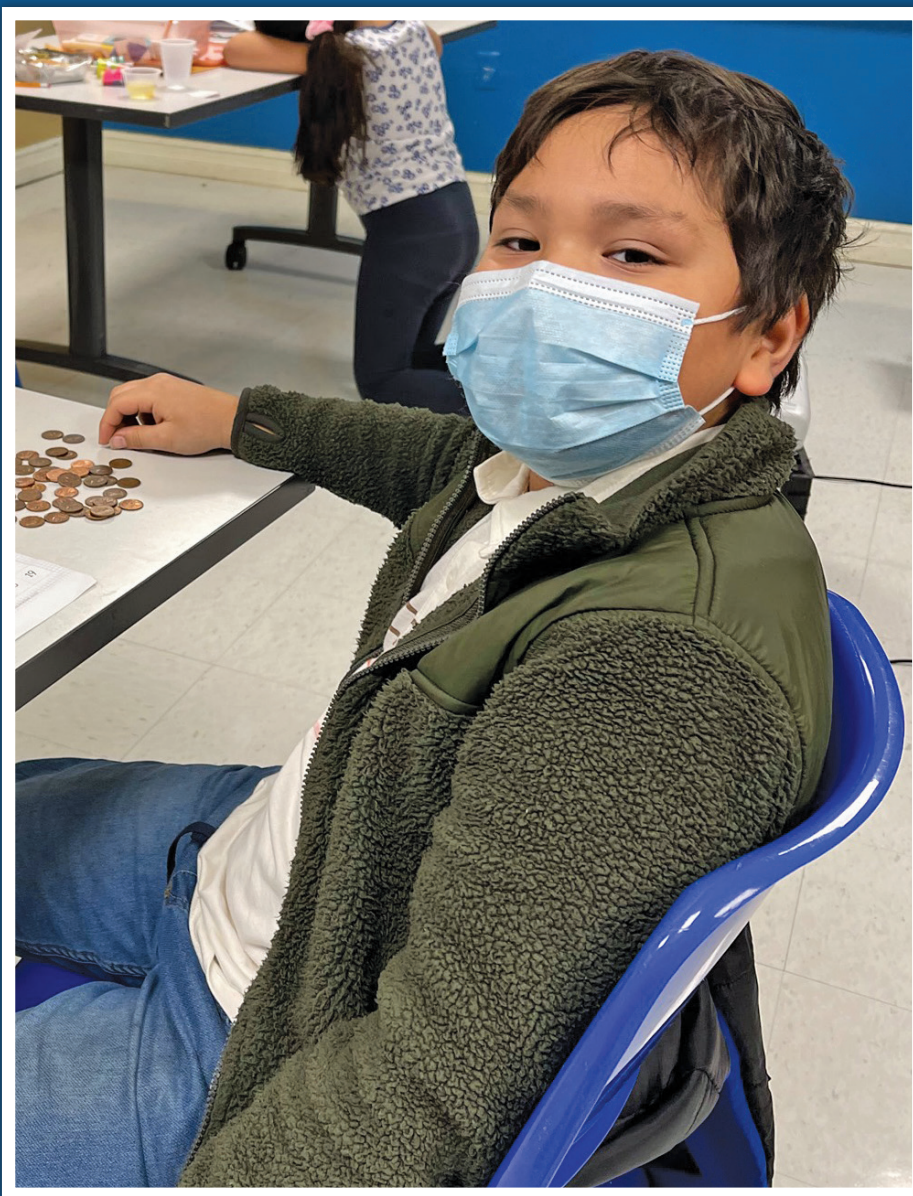
# BE THERE

2020 has been a very challenging year for Boys & Girls Clubs on Native Lands. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused widespread disruption in our communities and has forced us to adapt our understanding of what it means to be a youth-serving organization. Native Clubs were either forced to close down as a result of local guidelines or, in many cases, ramp up services to fill the void of school and day care closures. Native communities have been hit hard by the virus and rely on the many services Boys & Girls Clubs provide every day. Despite the challenges of the past year, we also have many reasons to be optimistic as we close out 2020 and look forward to 2021. There have been countless examples of Club leadership, staff, youth and families rising to meet the challenges of operating during a global pandemic.

Virtual programming has become a major part of our operating model in 2020, and this has allowed us to connect with youth and families in ways that were previously not possible. From online mentoring sessions to meal delivery services to increased social media outreach, we have seen many examples of innovative solutions to the obstacles we have faced this year.

It may seem like a contradiction to emphasize 'Be There' as our theme in a year when we have all spent so much time apart; however, in many ways "being there" for each other has never been more important than during this year. As shown by the success stories gathered in this report, being there for each other is about so much more than being in the same physical space. It is about supporting our communities through difficult times, connecting through engaging and culturally appropriate learning opportunities, and providing a beacon of hope for the next generation of Native leaders. We all hope that we can get back to traditional programming in 2021, but let's not forget the spirit of perseverance that has guided us through 2020.





**THROUGHOUT  
THE PANDEMIC,**

**Native Clubs** have  
been able to continue  
to **BE THERE** for  
kids as a source of

**LIGHT,  
HOPE AND  
OPPORTUNITY.**

# LETTER FROM THE NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT OF NATIVE SERVICES

As we approach the end of this uniquely challenging year, I continue to be amazed by the strength and determination of the dedicated staff and volunteers at Native Clubs. As challenging as this year has been for all of us, we have never lost sight of our core mission to enable young people to grow strong in a safe and nurturing environment with the guidance of caring, adult professionals. This mission has never been more important than it is today. Our youth have had to deal with school closings, loss of family income, caring for sick family members and countless hardships brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am proud of the ways we have not only met these challenges, but continued to grow as an organization. We have welcomed new Clubs into the fold and provided culturally relevant youth programming in a variety of formats. Like many of you, I did not expect to spend so much time in virtual meetings this past year, but adaptability is a key component in our role as youth development professionals. Even now that most Clubs are open for in-person programming, we have still had to adapt so much of what we took for granted. Face masks and social distancing have become the new normal. However, I truly believe that we are defined by how we respond to the adversity that we face and that challenges can only make us stronger as leaders in our communities.

On behalf of BGCA Native Services, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation for all of our hard-working Club staff, Tribal leaders, partners, donors and friends. I look forward to our continued growth and partnership in 2021 and beyond!



Woliwoni,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carla Knapp".

**Carla Knapp**  
*National Vice President, Native Services*  
Boys & Girls Clubs of America

# LETTER FROM PRESIDENT AND CEO

Boys & Girls Clubs of America is proud to serve more Native children and teenagers than any youth development organization. Each year, over 200 Native Boys & Girls Clubs provide more than 120,000 Native youth with a safe place, caring adult mentors and beneficial programming. But much work remains to be done.

In the United States today, there are over 2 million Native people age 24 or younger. As a group, they have poorer health, education and economic outcomes than their non-Native peers. To prevail over these all-too-common hardships and build a foundation for long-term success, BGCA is determined to provide more Native youth with essential programming and mentoring.

BGCA will continue to advocate for Native young people and the sustainable development of Native Clubs. In doing so, many more Native youth are likely to benefit from Club experiences that will strengthen their cultural identity, lifestyle choices and academic success. COVID-19 has touched every one of us. But its impact can feel especially stark in Native communities, often set in remote rural areas with little economic opportunity and isolated from essential services such as hospitals and marketplaces. Nonetheless, Native Clubs continued to safely serve and support Native youth with remote, virtual or hybrid services in 2020, helping them to keep learning, growing and developing a vision and foundation for long-term success.

Please read on to learn more of our accomplishments in 2020 and long-term vision for Native Clubs. Thank you for your support of BGCA Native Services.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James L. Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

**James L. Clark**  
*President and CEO*  
Boys & Girls Clubs of America

# MISSION

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



# VISION

*Strengthening Native youth's cultural identity through programming that explicitly promotes positive youth growth and development along critical cultural, social, emotional, intellectual, and physical dimensions through viable and sustainable organizations.*



# CORE BELIEFS

**A Boys & Girls Club Provides:**

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

# NATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Native Advisory Committee (NAC) provides leadership and insight on Native history, traditions, values and culture that will help establish and refine BGCA's systems and methods of service to assure the greatest benefit for Native Clubs. Individuals who assume a position on the committee are responsible for providing Native Services with input on Club training, professional development and issues facing Native youth. NAC members must support Native Services by identifying resources and potential sponsors to further services to Native youth.



## ARIZONA

**Adam Ortiz**  
*Boys & Girls Clubs  
of Tucson*

## HAWAII

**Claudia 'Lala' Fernandez**  
*Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii*

## KANSAS

**Nathan Hale**  
*Boys & Girls Club of the Prairie  
Band Potawatomi Nation*

## MAINE

**Fenton Jones**  
*Boys & Girls Clubs of  
Border Towns*

## MICHIGAN

**Sandra Walden**  
*Boys & Girls Club of Bay Mills*

## MINNESOTA

**Thomas C. Barrett**  
*Red Lake Nation  
Boys & Girls Club*

**Terri Darco**  
*Boys & Girls Club of  
White Earth Reservation*

## NEW MEXICO

**Wendolyn Murphy**  
*Mescalero Apache  
Boys & Girls Club*

**Jolene Vigil**  
*Pueblo of Pojoaque  
Boys & Girls Club*

## NEW YORK

**Jessica Cree Jock**  
*Akwesasne Boys &  
Girls Club*

## OKLAHOMA

**Lindsey Harris**  
*Boys & Girls Club of Chelsea*

## SOUTH DAKOTA

**Glen Marshall**  
*Boys & Girls Club of Rosebud*

## WISCONSIN

**Ron Corn**  
*Woodland Boys & Girls Club*

**Heather Peterson**  
*Boys & Girls Club of the  
Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe Band*

# BGCIC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Boys & Girls Clubs in Indian Country Board of Directors, comprised of BGCA National Staff and leaders from partner organizations, seeks to advocate for all Clubs on Native Lands. Advocacy takes place through fundraising, partnership building and communicating with local Clubs and Tribal agencies.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### **Dan Lewis**

*President & CEO*  
Native Insight, LLC

### **John Underwood**

*Managing Director*  
Goldman Sachs & Co.

### **Carla Knapp**

*National Vice President, Native Services*  
Boys & Girls Clubs of America

### **Kelly Concho-Hayes**

*Lead Director of Organizational  
Development*  
Boys & Girls Clubs of America

### **Lorraine Orr**

*Chief Operations Officer*  
Boys & Girls Clubs of America

### **Andra Rush**

*Chief Executive Officer*  
Rush Trucking

### **Kristine Morain**

*Legal Advisor*  
Boys & Girls Clubs of America

### **Maj. General Alfred A. Valenzuela**

*Officer*  
U.S. Army

### **Valerie Red-Horse Mohl**

*Chief Financial Officer*  
East Bay Community Foundation





# RESPONDING TO A PANDEMIC

Although Native Clubs were faced with challenges imposed by COVID-19, Club staff responded through innovation and creativity. Clubs conducted on-site, hybrid or virtual programming and provided daily meals, snacks and wellness checks to not only the youth they serve throughout the year, but their families as well.



**63,860**

YOUTH SERVED ON-SITE



**12,132**

YOUTH SERVED VIRTUALLY

## IN 2020, NATIVE CLUBS PROVIDED:



**933,657** MEALS TO YOUTH



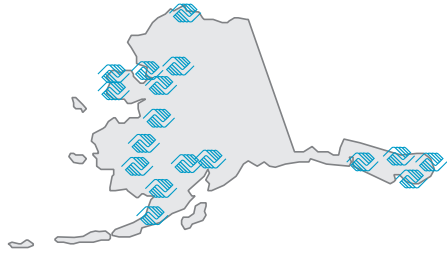
**733,971** SNACKS TO YOUTH



**582,961** MEALS AND SNACKS TO FAMILIES

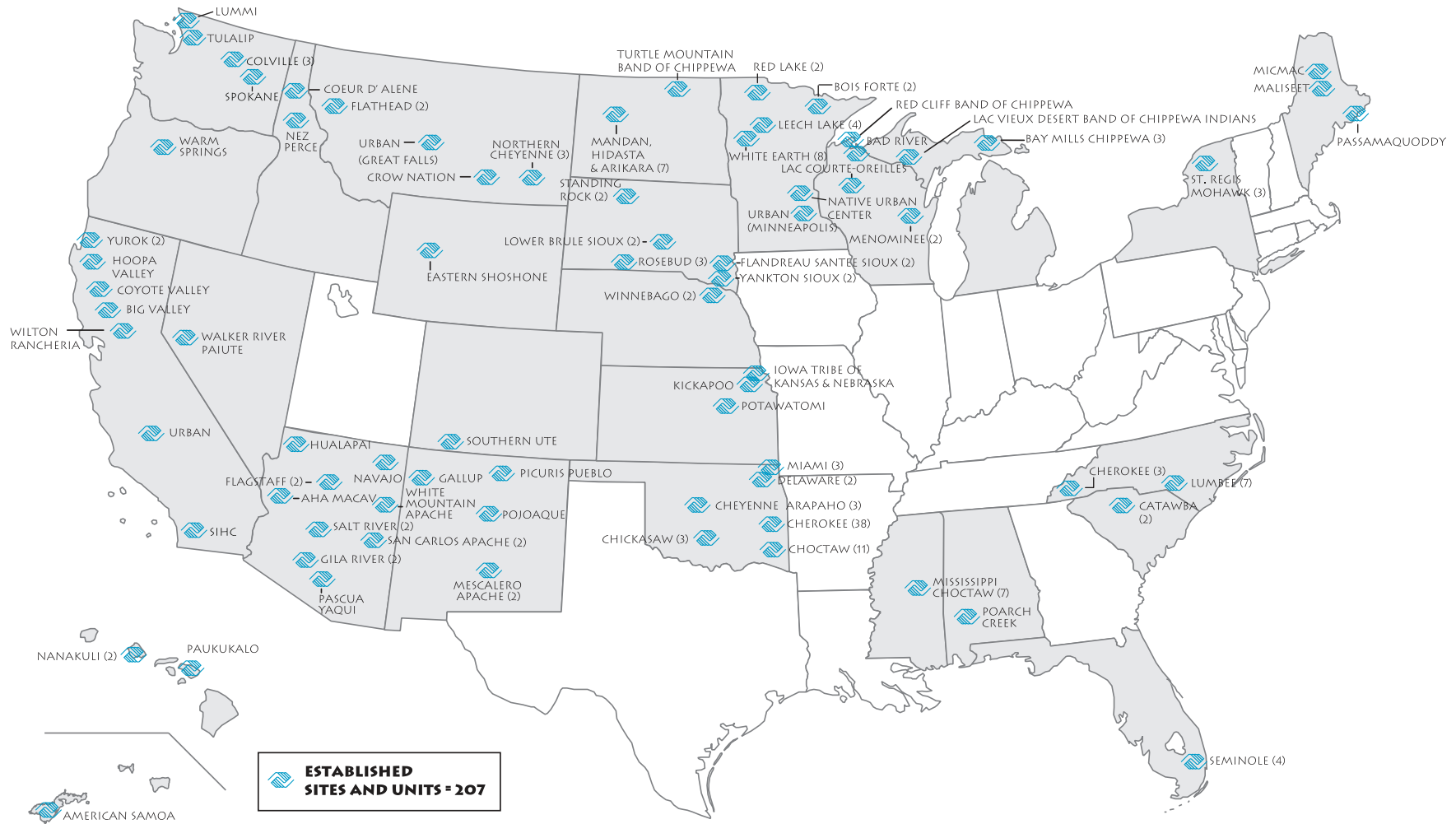


**8,593** FAMILY WELLNESS CHECKS



LIST OF CLUBS IN ALASKA:	
BARROW	NOME
BREVIG MISSION	NOORVIK
KAKE	SAND POINT
KIVALINA	SAXMAN
KLAWOCK	SELAWIK
KOTZEBUE	ST. MARY'S
METLAKATLA	TOGIAK
MOUNTAIN VILLAGE	TYONEK
NAKNEK	

# 2020 NATIVE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS



# Native Clubs | **MAKING THE DIFFERENCE**

## **Boys & Girls Club of Darlington**

The resiliency that Native Clubs have shown in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic is truly inspiring. One story of strength comes from the **Boys & Girls Club of Darlington**, which has provided food, personal protective equipment and emotional support to youth and families since March. “The situation has been constantly changing, day by day,” said Club CEO Linda Hulbutta, “and we haven’t been able to plan ahead.” Despite these barriers, Hulbutta has been continuing to adhere closely to the school system’s regulations and has maintained the initiative to provide families with what they need.

In March, when the COVID-19 pandemic first caused major shutdowns, a large number of parents were furloughed and had not yet begun to receive unemployment assistance. This is a familiar story for many communities that have experienced tremendous hardships during the past year. The Boys & Girls Club of Darlington stepped into their role of providing support and essential supplies immediately, which they were able to do thanks to additional funds provided by the Walmart Foundation and Panda Cares. Providing personal protective equipment has been exceptionally important, given the nationwide shortages of high-quality protective gear.

The Club not only provided much needed supplies, but their effort to keep in touch with families on a personal level reflects their dedication to being an outstanding resource to the community. Each staff member was assigned to youth of a different grade level, and would check in with all of the youth and their families on a regular basis to see whether they needed anything. “We can connect families with other community resources, such as mental health agencies, financial aid and food assistance,” explained Hulbutta. The Boys & Girls Club of Darlington has been an outstanding community leader by providing valuable resources and support to families in 2020 and beyond.



# PROGRAMS WITH NATIVE ADAPTATIONS

Honoring local Tribal culture is an important part of the mission of all Native Boys & Girls Clubs. In 2020, Native history was combined with modern technology, as Club programming was adapted to become more culturally relevant. Among the many exciting adaptations, Clubs provided Native language tutorials via social media and conducted online cooking classes. Weaving Native history and modern tradition into Club programming is an important element of the BGCA Great Futures 2025 initiative. Evidence-based programs are utilized to ensure that Boys & Girls Clubs are well-positioned to provide the best possible programming that acknowledges and honors the unique cultural heritage of Native communities. In 2020, BGCA Native Services continued to adapt and promote the following programs geared towards Native youth.

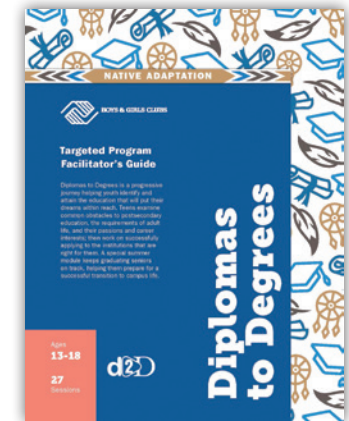
## BE THERE

The Be There initiative supports Clubs in creating a high-quality Club Experience for all youth by investing in building a safe, positive environment, establishing supportive relationships and creating a sense of belonging. Be There is a comprehensive approach to help Clubs and BGCA-affiliated youth centers integrate best practices in supporting youth experiencing bereavement and other major life-altering losses. We not only want to help youth process through their grief, but we also want to include resilience development as part of the long-term approach in preparing our youth to reach their full potential. Be There provides trainings, resources and strategies that help Clubs increase their capacity to support youth, staff and families who are grieving. The strategies that are offered in this toolkit are meant to support Clubs in building strong, supportive relationships among youth, staff, families and the community. Grief is an all too familiar experience for many of the young people we serve. While the challenges that Native communities face are great, the resiliency of those Native communities is even greater. The decades of superior youth development, advocacy and support that Native Services provides is inextricably linked to that resiliency even as it serves to reinforce it.



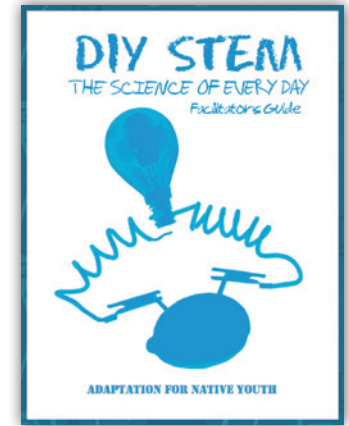
## DIPLOMAS TO DEGREES

Diplomas to Degrees (d2D) is a college readiness program that guides Club members as they work toward high school graduation and prepare for post-secondary education and career success. The culturally-adapted version of this curriculum assists teens to develop both short- and long-term goals, while familiarizing them with post-secondary education opportunities through experiences like college tours. The d2D program also assists youth in securing financial aid and fosters supportive, culturally relevant relationships with adults who can provide support throughout the college experience.



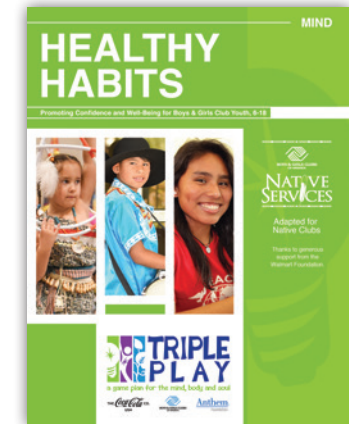
## DIY STEM

Do It Yourself (or DIY) STEM is an activity-based program that brings scientific principles to life. The program uses items commonly found in the Club or that can be easily procured to introduce Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematical (STEM) concepts to youth. DIY STEM is a program that can be implemented in its entirety or as separate units depending on the needs and interests of various Club kids. The program and curriculum requires youth to think deeply so they can build skills to become the professionals, builders, researchers, educators and leaders of the future as Club staff guide them to explore STEM-related concepts. DIY STEM's Native-adapted curriculum brings crucial anecdotes relating these curriculum units to the Club members' cultural realities – infusing STEM and indigenous cultural concepts into one integrated program.



## HEALTHY HABITS

Designed to incorporate healthy living and active learning into every part of the Club Experience, Healthy Habits emphasizes the importance of acknowledging the relations and interconnectivity of good nutrition, regular physical activity and mental fitness for improving overall well-being. The program, for ages 6 to 18, is the Mind component of Triple Play: A Game Plan for the Mind, Body and Soul and encourages the adoption of specific routines and everyday practices in order to align one's life with overarching wellness. BGCA Native Services has reviewed the Healthy Habits curriculum to provide Native Clubs with an adaptation of the curriculum that is more reflective of Native cultural beliefs and understandings of the holistic nature of health and wellbeing.



## MY.FUTURE

My.Future Digital Essentials is an online curriculum created by BGCA to give youth the technology skills they need to thrive in today's digital world. Through personalized and engaging hands - on experiences, My.Future teaches youth valuable digital skills. My.Future Digital Essentials helps youth understand their media world, identify and develop digital interests and earn certifications as they make progress. Through a partnership between BGCA Native Services and Verizon, the curriculum was reviewed to provide Native Clubs with an adaptation that is more reflective of Native cultures. The adaptation was designed to give Clubs the ability to create their own activities and to encourage students to explore their cultural heritage while increasing their digital literacy.



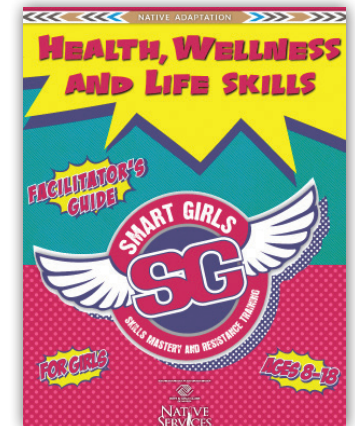
## ON THE T.R.A.I.L. TO DIABETES PREVENTION

In 2003, BGCA, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), IHS and Nike, Inc., initiated a prevention program aimed at reducing the onset of type 2 diabetes among Native youth. The program – On the T.R.A.I.L. (Together Raising Awareness for Indian Life) to Diabetes Prevention – is an innovative combination of physical, educational and nutritional activities that align with ideas of holistic wellness within many Native communities. T.R.A.I.L. is comprised of a 12-chapter curriculum program that provides Native youth with a comprehensive understanding of healthy lifestyles in order to prevent diabetes and attain emotional, mental, physical and spiritual balance. An evidence-based approach is woven throughout the program – a principle that BGCA has always centered in its approach to youth development. Programs draw from Tribal traditions and history to learn about nutrition, food choices, media influences and the impact of diabetes. FirstPic, Inc. has partnered with BGCA on this program from its onset and assisted in its successful implementation in over 50 Native communities nationwide.



## SMART GIRLS

SMART Girls is one of Boys & Girls Clubs of America's top programs. It is taught year-round at Clubs across the country, reaching girls ages 8 to 18. Its targeted curriculum ensures girls get the right information and the support at the right time. Separate modules are specially tailored to three distinct age groups: 8 to 10, 11 to 13 and 14 to 18. The interactive, engaging, small-group sessions engender camaraderie, while also encouraging each girl to explore and express her individuality through discussions, hands-on games and activities, role-play, take-home activities and collaborative decision-making and problem-solving. The SMART Girls Native Adaption aims to assist Club staff in tailoring the program to be culturally relevant and responsive to the unique strengths and needs of Native girls in their Club. Many indigenous scholars have found that promoting positive youth development among Native youth demands a holistic approach to program design that incorporates key wellbeing vital to their culture.



» For the full list of adapted programs, please visit [NAClubs.org](https://www.naclubs.org).



## Partner Support: NORTHWEST AREA FOUNDATION

**Northwest Area Foundation's** mission is based on providing community support, including a commitment to advancing prosperity and creating lasting change in Native communities. When Native Clubs experienced hardships from the pandemic, Northwest Area Foundation allowed Clubs to repurpose partnership deliverables to meet the most urgent and immediate needs of Native youth and communities. The **Boys & Girls Club of Rosebud** has benefited greatly from this partnership and the foundation's commitment to supporting Native youth. Glen Marshall, Club CEO, appreciates this partnership and the positive impact it has had on his youth, specifically highlighting the Club's *Career Launch* program.



The partnership began in 2018, and expanded when the Boys & Girls Club of Rosebud was looking to expand the options available for their teens. With funding support from the foundation, *Career Launch* started later that year and has proved to be a great success. The effects of this can be felt first-hand, as it has opened up career options that teens in these remote areas may never have considered before. The program has provided youth with hands-on experience of different professions, specifically by taking youth on educational field trips to various places of employment that they were interested in learning more about. "Kids choose to be at the Club, so you want them to be interested in what they're learning", says Glen.

Through *Career Launch*, teens have networked with Native business professionals who have provided mentoring support and post-secondary career development opportunities. Some teens have even been able to secure employment at local Tribal businesses.

*Career Launch* has continued to help foster the career aspirations of Native youth, despite the difficult circumstances of the past year. It has also led to other foundation-funded programs at the Club, including the college readiness program *Diplomas to Degrees*. Through this support, the Boys & Girls Club of Rosebud has been able to further support Native youth, simultaneously furthering the mission of Northwest Area Foundation.

# Native Clubs | **MAKING THE DIFFERENCE**

## **Boys & Girls Club of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe**

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Native Boys and Girls Clubs have had to adapt on an unprecedented scale. For Bruce LeClaire, CEO of the **Boys & Girls Club of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe**, this meant working hard to adjust implementation. Summer programming became virtual, with staff videotaping and providing materials for pre-planned projects for youth to do with their families. Additional programming included a t-shirt design contest, regular home check-ins with the parents and a backpack food program. In the fall, the Club offered a healthy food program, conducted a virtual physical activity program and provided gift cards to low-income families for holiday food shopping.



In addition to these efforts to help Native Club youth, the Club also made a point of investing in the mental well-being of staff. This care included having virtual meetings focused more on team-building; delivering gift baskets to staff homes, making an effort to keep cameras on during meetings, providing counseling, and having staff complete a survey about the personal impacts of the pandemic. These efforts ensured a more positive and nurturing team atmosphere. LeClaire said, “We can focus on the kids, but we need to focus on the staff as well. We have to take care of ourselves so we can take care of others.” Through devoting resources to bolstering staff well-being during this time, the Boys & Girls Club of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe’s goal was to be there for Club staff so they could ultimately be there for the children.

“We are still continuing to have a positive impact on kids. It is challenging, but at the same time, a rewarding challenge,” LeClaire states. With a stronger team, Boys & Girls Club of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe is able to continue to make a difference in their community and lives of their youth, even when faced with unexpected challenges.

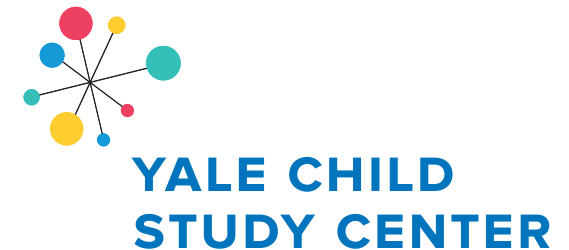


# EXECUTIVE TRAININGS

BGCA Native Services understands that professional training is integral to achieving an Optimal Club Experience for youth as well as decreasing staff turnover. In support of the organization-wide goal to keep professional learning a priority, Native Club staff participated in a variety of virtual trainings to support benchmark best practices, professional skill cultivation and organizational sustainability.

## NATIVE RESILIENCY CONFERENCE

October brought the opportunity for Native Clubs to attend the virtual Native Resiliency Conference in collaboration with the Yale School of Medicine. The conference explored the history of Native communities' strength and persistence through adversity. Club leaders participated in interactive sessions featuring topics of continued resonance, such as having discussions with kids about inequality and injustice, knowing when to intervene when a child needs help, and creating practices within Clubs that promote positivity, effective crisis intervention and holistic health. Native Club leaders were able to interact with each other and share a thought-provoking and inspiring experience, coming away with a fresh outlook on the ways that Club staff can encourage resilience.



## NATIVE NATIONAL TRAINING INITIATIVE (NTI)

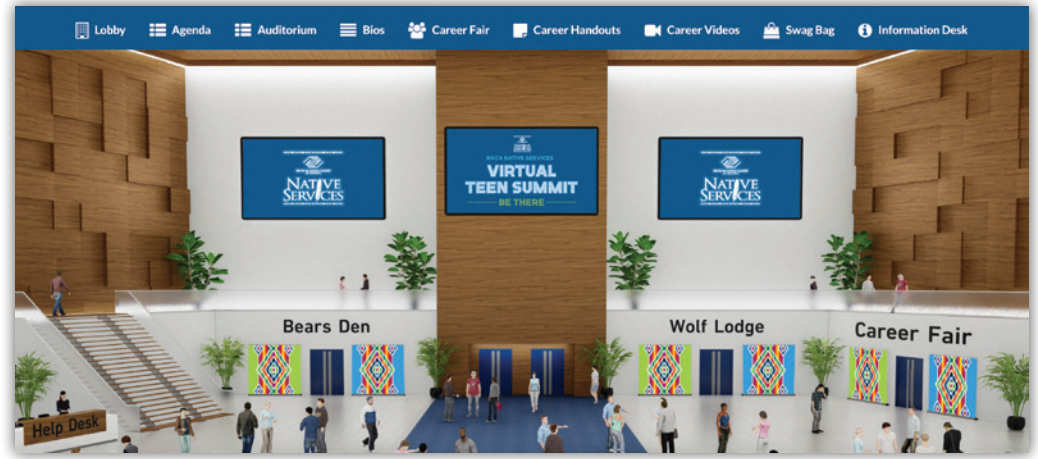
In 2020, BGCA Native Services offered a professional development training opportunity to all Native Club leadership. The training provided the opportunity for Native Boys & Girls Club staff to obtain and retain in-house certified trainers through onboarding and skill-building processes. Having a certified trainer in-house allows Clubs to host their own learning events, collaborate with other local organizations and cultivate the strongest Club professionals. This training contained brand new facilitation techniques to help Clubs enhance organizational capacity and enrich the Club Experience for their youth and teens despite the changes to program models that COVID-19 has mandated.



## 2020 VIRTUAL TEEN SUMMIT “BE THERE”

In 2020, BGCA Native Services hosted a Virtual Teen Summit. This three-day conference was held in November and brought together teens and staff from Native Boys & Girls Clubs. The virtual event included a variety of speakers, including Native representatives from a number of different career paths such as the arts, politics and science.

It also included presentations on different career and education opportunities, a virtual fair and additional interactive activities that allowed youth to participate in the fun themselves. The 2020 Virtual Teen Summit provided a great opportunity for Native youth to “Be There” for each other in spirit!



### Some highlights of the 2020 Virtual Teen Summit included:

- Keynote speeches from youth champions including Jim Clark (President and CEO of BGCA), Lorraine Orr (Chief Operations Officer of BGCA), Chance Rush (motivational speaker) and Taboo Nawasha (musician from the Black Eyed Peas).
- Presentations from key partners of BGCA Native Services including Walmart, Comic Relief USA, Verizon and Nike N7.
- Cultural celebrations and ceremony from Club youth and staff including hip-hop artist Thomas X.
- Interactive team activities that promoted STEM education, environmental awareness, cultural sharing and skills for health transitions.



BGCA NATIVE SERVICES

# VIRTUAL TEEN SUMMIT

BE THERE



# HONORING NATIVE HERITAGE

The month of November is a meaningful time for Native Boys & Girls Clubs to reflect and honor National Native American Heritage Month (NNAHM). Each November, BGCA Native Services uplifts the identities of Native peoples and inspires Native Clubs to continue making cultural practice inseparable from daily Club activity. For 2020 NNAHM, BGCA Native Services worked to strengthen culturally relevant Club programming by providing activities that Clubs can do to celebrate together.

At the start of November, BGCA Native Services provided Clubs with the 2020 Native Heritage Planning Calendar. This calendar served to assist Native Club professionals with infusing intentional cultural programming and activities into daily Club life throughout the month of November to celebrate NNAHM. The calendar made it possible for all Native Clubs to collectively coordinate simultaneous Native cultural activities and provided opportunities to share the impact they made on social media. BGCA Native Services provided two versions of the calendar for download, one that included activities that can be done in-Club and one that included activities that can all be done virtually.

The graphic is a 'NOVEMBER PLANNING CALENDAR' for 'HONORING NATIVE HERITAGE'. It features the Boys & Girls Clubs of America Native Services logo in the top right. The calendar is organized into five color-coded columns: Week 1 (orange), Week 2 (purple), Week 3 (tan), Week 4 (blue), and Week 5 (green). Each week contains a list of activities. At the bottom, a decorative arrow graphic points to the text: 'SHARE HOW YOUR CLUB CELEBRATES ON SOCIAL MEDIA USING #NATIVECLUBS'.

WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Host a Community Service Day to honor your local community and culture.</li><li>• Learn and practice a traditional Native dance. Host a talent show that features this dance, along with singing and storytelling.</li><li>• Go on a nature walk to identify indigenous plants/food, then taste test some items.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Celebrate Native American Veterans and Tribal leaders by inviting them to the Club to be honored through food and fun.</li><li>• Host a poster contest with the National Native American Heritage Month theme.</li><li>• Prepare for Rock Your Mocs Day on November 15<sup>th</sup>.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Write a letter to an elder in your Tribe.</li><li>• Learn about the harvesting season, by planting fruits and berries. Enjoy harvested Native foods (berries, roots, etc.)</li><li>• Have an elder talk about Tribal traditions. Make a past, present and future time capsule to show your heritage and how you practice culture.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Meet Club members from another Native Club. Play games, get to know each other, and learn together about emotional wellness.</li><li>• Create a traditional Native craft, or draw a place on your land that brings good feelings and strength.</li><li>• Learn a few words or phrases from your Tribe's Native language.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Host a photography contest to capture Native culture in your community.</li><li>• Host a special event to celebrate Native college graduates and Native Club alumni.</li><li>• Have a scavenger hunt for youth to find significant things in their community, or using your written Native language.</li></ul>

Whether Clubs operated in-person or virtually this year due to the pandemic, BGCA Native Services ensured that Native Boys & Girls Clubs were given the opportunity to be part of a collective act of coordinated cultural activities to honor their heritage. BGCA Native Services seeks to uphold the traditions of Native peoples, not just in the month of November, but throughout the entire year.



## Partner Support: WELLS FARGO

**Wells Fargo** is strongly committed to issues of economic empowerment, diversity and social inclusion in American Indian/Alaska Native communities. As a partner to BGCA Native Services, Wells Fargo has contributed to many great initiatives in recent years, such as funding workforce development programs for Native youth. The past year has seen this partnership continue to flourish.

The community of Mayetta, Kansas, has benefited from the generosity of Wells Fargo towards the **Boys & Girls Club of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation**. Due to the pandemic, the Club was struggling financially and was completely closed for all services. After receiving funding from Wells Fargo in late spring, the Club was able to begin providing meals to youth up to the age of 18 in their community. Over the summer, 250 meals were delivered to youth each day. With so many parents out of work, this source of proper nutrition for kids was essential. Club CEO Nathan Hale estimates that they were able to serve up to 175 more youth than the Club typically can reach in the summer as a direct result of this funding.



**WELLS  
FARGO**

Funding from Wells Fargo was also instrumental in helping the Club to set up WIFI hotspots in the community and to purchase laptops for youth in need to participate in online learning and programming. Thanks to this partnership, there are significantly fewer youth in the community who lack access to online learning opportunities.

Thank you so much to Wells Fargo and the Boys & Girls Club of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation for your service and dedication to youth. The continued strength of community partnerships such as this are essential as we strive to provide the best possible future for the youth we serve!

# ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

BGCA Native Services has continued with its unwavering dedication to sustainable organization streamlining, growth and capacity-building in the past year. Despite the challenges we faced in 2020, it has proved to be another momentous year, as more organizations were added to the family of Native Boys & Girls Clubs. Public and private joint ventures and partnerships were strengthened and solidified, providing Clubs with vital resources and support.

Thanks to this support, Club youth were able to continue accessing the services that are so necessary in indigenous communities via virtual programming, as well as through limited in-person programming. BGCA Native Services remains strongly committed to expanding growth opportunities and opening new Native organizations to ensure that hundreds of thousands of indigenous youth, now and in the future, have access to the resources and support needed to lead the lives they deserve.

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“ In 2021, the resilience of Native people will continue to shine as our Clubs recover, rebuild and focus on our mission of helping youth reach their full potential as productive, caring and responsible citizens. Though 2020 was challenging, the strength that our Clubs have shown in using their resources and providing for their communities has been inspiring. We hope that 2021 will offer new perspective, because exciting things are coming! ”

– **Carla Knapp**, *National Vice President, BGCA Native Services*

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# Native Clubs | **MAKING THE DIFFERENCE**

## **Boys & Girls Club of Delaware County**

The **Boys & Girls Club of Delaware County** has been able to continue “business as usual” this year by combining innovative approaches to Club programming with the perseverance that embodies our community of Native Clubs. After closing down due to the pandemic, the Club took the time to prepare materials and launched virtual sessions. They also began sending out weekly activity packets to members who could not participate virtually.

Currently, the Club has opened one of their seven sites for socially-distanced in-person operations and is sending out weekly activity packets to 120 youth who are not able to return. The packets contain different activities each week, but, as Club CEO Jay Cranke notes, “Reading and math are the toughest subjects” for their youth, so they try to include these topics every week. Cranke and his staff are passionate about ensuring that all of their members have access to the education they need to succeed.

As in many areas, unemployment spiked in Delaware County due to the health crisis. For this reason, Cranke says, “Getting back in session was one of the best things the Club could do for their community and members.” The Boys & Girls Club of Delaware County has assisted families that are struggling financially. At Thanksgiving, the Club provided turkeys for several families in need. The Club was also able to provide around 20 youth with winter coats in preparation for the colder weather. The staff of the Boys & Girls Club of Delaware County have worked tirelessly to ensure that the youth in their community have not missed out on the services they needed to thrive during the past year. BGCA Native Services thanks the Boys & Girls Club of Delaware County for being a source of inspiration!





# NATIONAL DAYS OF ADVOCACY

BGCA Native Services plays an essential role in advocating for Native youth and serving as a voice to promote their collective needs. We believe in uplifting the voices of indigenous youth and advocating for their futures on the national stage.

In early 2020, before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, advocates from six Native Boys & Girls Clubs arrived in Washington D.C. to attend Boys & Girls Clubs of America's National Days of Advocacy (NDOA). Club leadership, volunteers and youth from across the nation engaged in dialogue with members of Congress regarding the critical needs of kids and teens. Having a seat at the table for policymaking provides Clubs with a valuable opportunity to raise awareness about the unique needs of indigenous youth.

We believe in empowering Native Boys & Girls Club professionals to become advocates not only for youth, but for all people in the Native communities they serve. During NDOA, it was particularly impactful that Club representatives were able to speak to the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. These conversations allowed for deeper understanding and traction on the issues that face indigenous youth, as Club leaders learned more about the national policy landscape and avenues for championing the most impactful causes for Native youth.

The National Days of Advocacy are days of reflection, learning and passion. The Clubs who participated returned from the event determined and prepared to continue advocating for Native youth in their own communities.





# Partner Support: WALMART FOUNDATION

In 2020, the partnership between the **Walmart Foundation** and BGCA Native Services has continued to benefit Native youth. Built on a foundational understanding of the unique needs of Native communities, this relationship was well-suited to address needs that were made all the more important due to the year's challenging circumstances.



The Walmart Foundation continued to provide funding to support BGCA's Healthy Habits program. With the understanding that Native youth face much higher rates of diabetes than their non-Native peers, this program provides Club members with access to nutritional education, basic cooking techniques and smart food shopping.

Programming is built to work around the resource constraints of Native communities in rural areas, and incorporates cultural elements into the program. The Walmart Foundation's ongoing generosity has allowed BGCA Native Services to expand Healthy Habits programming to even more Clubs than last year, going from 35 in 2019 to 45 in 2020.

In addition to contributing towards health programming, Walmart was a proud sponsor of the 2020 Virtual Teen Summit, reinforcing the value they place on fostering the growth and well-being of Native youth. The Walmart Foundation and BGCA Native Services also share a strategic focus on long-term sustainability, realized through continued contributions to the BGCIC Endowment Fund. BGCA Native Services is excited to continue growing this important partnership in the coming year.



# Partner Support: RED NOSE DAY

The partnership between BGCA Native Services and Comic Relief USA's **Red Nose Day** continued to grow in 2020, as both organizations came together to minimize child poverty and give Native children access to healthy educational programming.

On May 23, 2020, individuals from countless Native Clubs donned their red noses to bring communities together, raise money and change the lives of Native children. Red Nose Day is a vital component in helping BGCA Native Services foster sustainable organizational growth and success, both in number of overall youth served and quality of youth services.

Beyond the efforts to broaden the reach of Native Boys & Girls Clubs through Red Nose Day, Comic Relief USA's Youth Advisory Council served as presenters for the 2020 Virtual Teen Summit. The Youth Advisory Council was organized to engage young people from communities across the United States and globally, including Native Lands.



The development of the Youth Advisory Council reflects the ongoing commitment of Comic Relief USA and the Red Nose Day partnership with BGCA Native Services, to meet the social, academic and emotional needs of Native youth.

BGCA Native Services sincerely appreciates the continued support from Comic Relief USA, as this critical funding and direct support from Red Nose Day was truly a beacon of hope in 2020.

# OUR PARTNERS

BGCA Native Services is grateful to our longstanding program partners, who enable us to provide the meaningful youth development programming to thousands of Native youth each year.



## AMERICAN INDIAN COLLEGE FUND

The American Indian College Fund, through its commitment with BGCA, will provide scholarship dollars exclusively for qualified Boys & Girls Club members to attend Tribal colleges and universities (TCUs) in the immediate proximity of their Club. Students must apply and be accepted into a TCU to be considered. Upon acceptance, the scholarships are renewable annually as long as students meet the college's eligibility requirements.



## BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between BGCA and its local affiliates in Indian Country and the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) will allow collaboration to enrich the lives of Native youth by supporting programs that discourage violence and drug abuse, while encouraging good citizenship and educational accomplishments. The goal of this partnership is to use the strengths and expertise of both organizations to improve and enhance the educational well-being of American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) youth attending BIE-funded schools and dormitories.



## CASEY FAMILY PROGRAMS

Casey Family Programs works in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, two territories and more than a dozen tribal nations to influence long-lasting improvements to the safety and success of children, families and the communities where they live. Founded in 1966, Casey Family Programs learn from and collaborate with communities at local, state, tribal and national levels to nurture the safety and success of every child.



## INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE (IHS)

IHS provides funding for the type 2 diabetes prevention program On the T.R.A.I.L. to Diabetes Prevention. T.R.A.I.L. is an innovative combination of educational, physical and nutritional activities that provides youth with a comprehensive understanding of healthy lifestyles with the long-term goal of preventing and/or reducing the onset of type 2 diabetes. Woven throughout the 12-week program are self-esteem and prevention activities utilized by BGCA. Club members draw from Native traditions and history to learn about nutrition, food choices, media influences and the impact of type 2 diabetes.



## NATIONAL RECREATION FOUNDATION

BGCA and the National Recreation Foundation (NRF) are teaming up to bring baseball and softball leagues to youth on Native lands. The “Fielding Dreams in Indian Country” grant promotes healthy lifestyles among Native youth through team sports. NRF is dedicated to enhancing the role of recreation as a positive force in improving the quality of life of youth by investing in recreation programs.



## NORTHWEST AREA FOUNDATION

This partnership aims to expand the number of Native Clubs delivering workforce development programming to Native youth and ensure that Native Clubs can deliver the highest-quality Club Experience by providing an assessment tool that sets Clubs up for continuous improvement. Our goals are to increase Clubs capacity to provide high-quality Workforce Development programs, to guide Native youth to develop 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and to help them form a clear vision of their future career goals. The project meets the Foundation’s funding priority for increasing good jobs through development and training that helps to prepare individuals with low incomes for successful futures.



## NOVO FOUNDATION

NoVo Foundation’s initiative seeks to help restore and strengthen indigenous knowledge and life-ways as potentially transformative in addressing some of the world’s—and similarly, some of Indigenous communities’—most pressing problems. Through this partnership, NoVo and BGCA Native Services will work together to improve the ability of our Native organizations to build and sustain strategic partnerships and key stakeholders through culturally relevant services, youth development programs adapted for Native youth that are driven by outcomes and leadership trainings for Club staff and Board Members.



## OJJDP

The U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Justice Programs (OJP)’s Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) supports BGCA through grants that allow us to strengthen, expand and implement youth mentoring activities and youth development programming.



## RED NOSE DAY

The aim of Red Nose Day is to bring about real and lasting change by tackling the root causes of childhood poverty and social injustice through the power of entertainment. BGCA Native Services receives proceeds from Red Nose Day, which are used to build capacity and support increases in average daily attendance in Native Clubs.



## THE WALMART FOUNDATION

The Walmart Foundation has provided funding to support Healthy Habits, BGCA's outcome-driven nutrition education program for Native youth. This program addresses the fact that Native youth face much higher rates of diabetes than their non-Native peers by providing access to nutritional education. Healthy Habits is focused on basic cooking techniques, smart food shopping, working around resource constraints and using resources from the local community to create healthy meals.



WELLS  
FARGO

## WELLS FARGO

Wells Fargo is committed to American Indian/Alaska Native communities through a diverse set of philanthropic initiatives focused on environmental sustainability, economic empowerment, diversity and social inclusion. Wells Fargo has been a valuable partner in contributing to the role of Native Boys & Girls Clubs in bringing comprehensive economic empowerment and advancement opportunity to Indigenous communities.



## YALE CHILD STUDY CENTER

The initial partnership between Native Boys & Girls Clubs and Yale Child Study Center came through the 2019 Charles Carl Fellowship Award which enabled Chief Executive Officers from various Boys & Girls Clubs on Native Lands to attend a three-day conference at the Child Study Center in the Yale School of Medicine. This award was made possible by the generous contribution of Dr. Charles Carl, a Yale-alumnus and community psychiatrist aiming to promote Native well-being. The event reflects a budding partnership between Yale Child Study faculty and BGCA Native Services, which continues to evolve.

# A VISION FOR GREAT FUTURES

2020 has seen BGCA Native Services maintain its role as the preeminent Native youth serving agency in the world. This has been achieved through constantly adapting to the changing needs of the youth we serve and is reflected in the passion, dedication and resiliency of our staff, volunteers and partners. We know that we cannot lose sight of these elements as we continue to grow as an organization and build stronger roots in our diverse Native communities. The four key pillars of the Great Futures 2025 Strategy have been strengthened in the following ways:

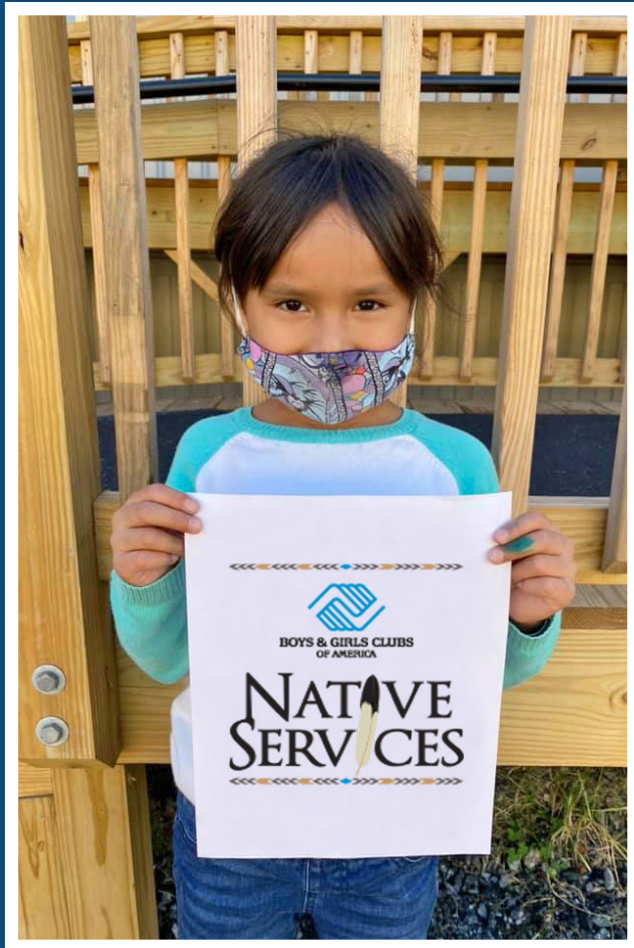
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB MOVEMENT

**GREATFUTURES**  
**2025**

- **INCREASE PROGRAM QUALITY** – BGCA Native Services has continued to use evidence-based programs and tools to fit the cultural needs of Native youth and has made many adaptations to account for an increase in virtual programming.
- **STRENGTHEN ORGANIZATIONS AND CLUB LEADERSHIP** – The past year has involved the development of many innovative solutions to the problems we have faced in Native communities. This has led to increased growth opportunities for Club Staff and Leadership alike. These innovations will not be forgotten as we move forward with a renewed focus and vision for providing strategic and customized trainings to help Clubs build capacity, partnerships and community trust.
- **ADVOCATE FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT** – BGCA Native Services remains committed to improving the lives of Native youth through engagement with Tribal Leaders, development of public and private partnerships, recruitment of inspiring youth ambassadors and, above all else, an unwavering focus on the unique needs of Native children.
- **REACH MORE YOUTH** – Native Clubs were able to widen their reach in 2020 by utilizing new virtual platforms for engaging with youth. In 2020, Boys & Girls Clubs on Native Lands served over 75,000 Native youth in over 200 Clubs through a combination of virtual and in-person programming.

This past year has reminded us that we can never really know for sure what the future holds. However, by continuing to adapt and show resiliency in the face of hardships, we will be ready for any challenges that lie ahead. With the support of our many wonderful partners and staff, BGCA Native Services knows that Great Futures are in store for our organization and the Native youth that we serve in 2021 and beyond.





# THANK YOU

for supporting BGCA Native Services so we can continue to **BE THERE** for the **Native youth** who need us most.



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