



# Whatever It Takes to Build Great Futures



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

# Our Mission

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



# Our History

Through its Boys & Girls Clubs, The Salvation Army of Greater Charlotte has served children for more than 85 years, making it one of the most experienced and trusted providers of out-of-school-time programs for children in grades K–12 in Mecklenburg and Union counties. Parents have continued to rely on our Clubs not just because of the affordable membership cost, but also because they can trust the organization and the people.

Many of our Youth Development Professionals have made mentoring youth their life's work. Our history of service demonstrates our dedication to doing **whatever it takes** to help young people overcome challenges and achieve a great future.



# Our Goals & Programs

Our programs are designed to help children succeed in the following youth development areas:

1. Academic Success
2. Character & Citizenship
3. Healthy Lifestyles

## **Career Launch**

Fun and interactive career preparation program for teens, preparing them for their first job, internships, summer employment and so much more!

## **Diplomas2Degrees**

College readiness program to guide Club members as they work toward high school graduation and beyond.

## **Healthy Habits**

Focuses on helping youth make choices that support healthy eating and physical wellness.

## **Junior Staff**

Teens develop interpersonal skills, a strong work ethic, and a sense of community engagement while experiencing on-the-job Club work.

## **Money Matters**

Promotes financial responsibility and independence among teen Club members by building their basic money management skills. Participants learn how to manage a checking account, budget, save, and invest and more.

## **Passport to Manhood**

Promotes and teaches responsibility in Club boys ages 8–17.

## **Power Hour**

Club members achieve academic success by receiving homework help, tutoring and high-yield learning activities so that they can become self-directed learners.

## **SMART Girls**

A small-group health, fitness, prevention/education, and self-esteem enhancement program designed to meet the developmental needs of girls in three age groups.

## **SMART Moves**

(Skills Mastery And Resistance Training) Designed to hone youths' decision-making and critical-thinking skills and teach them how to resist alcohol, tobacco, other drugs and premature sexual activity.

## **Street SMART**

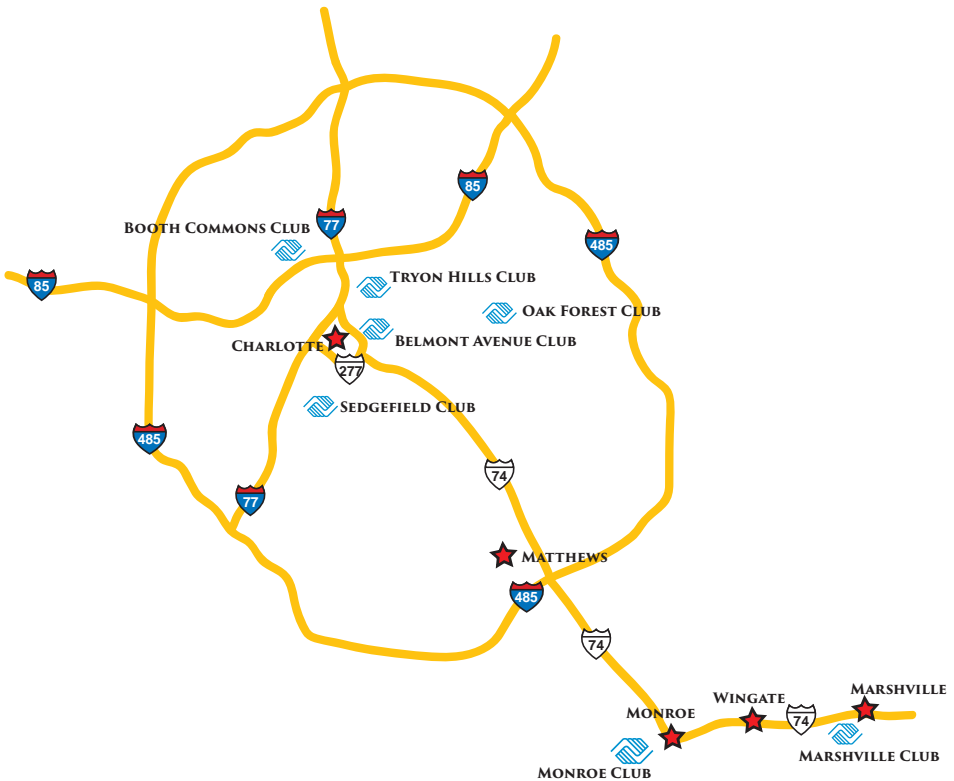
Gang, bullying and violence prevention curriculum with an emphasis on resiliency training for Club members ages 10–14.

## **Youth of the Month/Year**

Boys & Girls Clubs of America's premier Club member recognition program. The journey to the top begins with local recognitions at all of our Clubs each month.

# Our Locations

With most of our Clubs in close proximity to public housing, our programs are strategically located in neighborhoods with families who can benefit the most. Most of these Clubs are in communities whose median income is less than half of the county median. The point is this: our Clubs are located where we are most needed.



# Our Members

Numbers represent all 7 Clubs in Mecklenburg & Union counties.

## Total Members

785	Total members during the 2020-21 year
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## Gender & Ethnicity

49%	Boys
48%	Girls
3%	Gender Unknown/ Unspecified
62%	African-American
20%	Hispanic
4%	Biracial/multiracial
2%	White
1%	Asian-American
11%	Other/Unknown

## Ages

33%	5-9
33%	10-12
32%	13-19

## Challenges

69%	Qualify for free/reduced lunch
43%	Live in a single-parent home
3%	Currently experiencing homelessness
16%	Experienced bullying at school or online in the past year

The majority of our members:

- Live in neighborhoods with higher crime rates
- Attend lower performing schools
- Live in communities with less opportunity, where the median household incomes are anywhere from 20% to as much as 65% less than that of rest of the county





# Our Impact



**99%**

*Feel acceptance and safety in being themselves at the Club*

**97%**

*Expect to graduate high school*

**89%**

*Are on track and on grade level*

**77%**

*Feel physically safer at the Club than spending time elsewhere in their community*

**81%**

*Expect to go to college or trade school*

**65%**

*Are physically active (60 minutes per day) at least 4 days a week*

*\*Stats from surveys of Charlotte Club members through the 2021 National Youth Outcomes Initiative.*

## Pandemic Response

The COVID-19 pandemic could not stop our mission to support kids in our community—whether in person or online. At the beginning of the pandemic, our team quickly developed a virtual platform called *Club Connect* that featured beneficial Club programs, at-home arts and crafts projects, virtual field trips and DIY games. In May 2020, the Clubs safely reopened to carry kids through an emotionally traumatic summer of unrest across the nation. When school began again - online - the Clubs transitioned from after-school programs to all-day programs, serving as virtual learning centers to help students complete their daily assignments, receive daily meals, emotional support and more. Today, our Clubs are safe havens for children and teens as they cope with the stress of the past two years.



# A Personal Story

## From Cameron Chambers, 2020-21 Boys & Girls Clubs Youth of the Year

I want to share with you how the Boys & Girls Club has shaped me into becoming the best version of myself. So, what does “the best version of me” mean? Let me tell you about my journey.

My story started more than 10 years ago. At the time, I was shy and childish, but eventually, I broke out of that. Being at the Club was the time of my life, and it just got better through the years. I will admit, I wasn't the best kid, always getting into some type of trouble. But, that was before I was truly building character. There was a point in time when I had to ask myself important questions, such as “What kind of person do I want to be? Who should I become? What do I want to do?”

Once I started high school, I had to really consider these things. I was on a search for my own values and standards, and there was a period of time when I was just stuck. Over time, with the guidance of Club staff and the collaboration of the other kids around me, I found my answers.

I want to be successful in my own way. A lot of people view success differently. For me, I want to completely apply myself in everything I do. I will always seek a way to improve, which is one way to hold myself accountable.

Lastly, and this is something that should have seemed obvious to me, I want to do something that I wholeheartedly enjoy.

I've been blessed to have a close relationship with many great mentors, one of whom recently passed away. Before he passed away, he would always tell me, “You will have your own money one day when you focus on your career. The money will come easy. The enjoyment is something that can easily fade.”

I took those words to heart the moment I heard them. I plan to work towards having a profession that I take pleasure in and enjoy more than anything. I keep these words as my personal truth – something I will live by every day.

Now, as I go to college, I am more than ready. The Boys & Girls Club has provided an abundant amount of support and opportunities to get me there. I was able to obtain a level of confidence that allowed me to widen my interests with several different experiences, from school tours to participating in workshops, and even networking.

For example, through Code 2 Success program, I learned how to create my own website from scratch, giving me additional experience for the major I'm focusing on – computer science. Another example is the Youth Entrepreneur's Club, where we were given a topic and assigned to build our own business project. I was able to be collaborative, gain confidence and become self-driven – qualities I know will help me in my next phase of life.

When I first became a Boys & Girls Club member, I would have never thought it could broaden my horizons to such an extent and help me develop into what I have become.

So, what does the best version of me look like? You are looking at him – and I have the Boys & Girls Club to thank for that.

*Cameron now attends NC A&T University where he is majoring in computer science - a dream that was sparked at his Boys & Girls Club.*





# Get Involved

Join us in doing whatever it takes to help children in our community build a great future. Each day, our Clubs inspire students to dream, and provide them with the tools they need to be successful. Countless members have gone on to graduate college, join the military, start businesses and become role models. Your contributions make these success stories possible. Donate today to our Great Futures Campaign, or start your own fundraiser, at [BGCCharlotte.org/greatfutures](http://BGCCharlotte.org/greatfutures).



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