



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF LAWRENCE**

June 9, 2015

City of Lawrence Commission
6 East 6th Street
Lawrence, KS 66044

Dear Commissioners,

We are writing to formally request financial support from the City of Lawrence to help the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence build a new Teen Center that will serve five times as many middle school and high school students. As we presented to the commission last fall, there is a gap in affordable after school and summer programs for middle school students. Our research estimates that approximately half (1300 kids) of middle school kids are going home by themselves or hanging out with friends in unsupervised places. Our current Teen Center is old and outdated and can serve 70 kids on a daily basis. Our campaign brochure further describes this problem, as well as our plan to solve this problem and the benefits our community will see as a result. As described in the brochure, short and long term benefits for the city include:

- Enabling working parents to be productive at work without having to worry about where their kids are after school.
- Decreased juvenile crime rates and costs associated with crime and incarceration.
- Increased career development and job training opportunities for young people.
- Higher wage earning citizens who will contribute to society.

As of today, we have raised \$579,000 from our inner family campaign (board, staff, and a few loyal donors). Add this to the current Teen Center asset we plan to sell, and we are at approximately \$1,029,000 towards our \$5,000,000 goal. We are continuing discussions with several other major donors and hope to secure some "lead" gifts before we make a formal announcement about our campaign.

The commission has formally endorsed this project at previous meetings. It is our hope that the City of Lawrence will commit \$500,000 to this project over the next two years (2016 and 2017). Thank you for your consideration. My phone number is 785.424.5211 or you can email me at cwilson@bgclk.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Colby Wilson

Colby Wilson
Executive Director
Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.

1520 Haskell Ave. • P.O. Box 748 • Lawrence, KS 66044
785-841-5672 • bgclk.org

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF LAWRENCE

3,000 of Lawrence's
K–5th graders belong to
Boys & Girls Club

Boys & Girls Club of
Lawrence serves
kids of **all**
ethnic and
socioeconomic
backgrounds



If just 10
Club members
graduate from
high school,
who otherwise
wouldn't, we will add
\$2 million
to our local economy
over their lifetimes

GREAT FUTURES

Boys & Girls Club has an
impact in **all** of Lawrence's
elementary schools★

The current Teen Center has room for
only 70 middle school members

Boys & Girls Club serves **63%** of
Lawrence's elementary students
but is able to accommodate
just 3% of its 6th–8th graders

30% of Boys & Girls
Club members improved
their math grades

33% improved
their grades in
reading

25% showed
improvement
in behavior
at school



START **HERE.**



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

More than 3,000 of Lawrence's K–5th graders belong to the Boys & Girls Club, which represents 63% of all elementary students.

Every week day, the Club serves approximately 1,400 students. Those remarkably high numbers underscore the fact that the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence provides safe, positive, healthy places for children at all★ of the city's public elementary schools.

In partnership with the school district and other local agencies, the Club has produced significant academic outcomes for Lawrence youth, including:

- decreasing the achievement gap,
- diminishing summer learning loss,
- improving behavior at school, and
- improving grades and test scores.

Unfortunately, two weeks into the 2014–2015 school year, the Boys & Girls Club Teen Center was forced to establish a wait list because the current facility cannot accommodate the demand of middle school members. Despite the demand, the teen program can serve only 70 (3%) of the school district's 2,300 6th–8th graders on a daily basis, and even fewer high school students.

For these reasons, the Boys & Girls Club Board of Directors is eager to create a larger citywide Teen Center. It will offer a positive place to provide age-appropriate supervision and programming, and it will accommodate the increasing number of young people who would like to be members of the Club. Space for a new building is available adjacent to the school district's new College and Career Center in southeast Lawrence.

The Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence is launching the **GREAT FUTURES START **HERE**** capital campaign to realize this goal. Raising \$5 million over a year's time is noble and feasible. The benefits will be ongoing — in the lifetimes of these young people, and in the life of our community.

YOUR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS ARE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED.

Please contact Colby Wilson, Executive Director, cwilson@bgclk.org or 785–424–5211.

★ Boys & Girls Club meets in 13 of Lawrence's 14 elementary schools. To save resources, students from Sunset Hill Elementary meet together with students at nearby Hillcrest Elementary.

WHO WE SERVE AND WHY

ALL LAWRENCE KIDS

Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence is unique — we serve a wide range of students, with different ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds. We serve all Lawrence youth, kindergarten through age 18.

KIDS OF COLOR

In addition to serving a high-risk segment of Lawrence youth, Boys & Girls Club serves a disproportionately high number of minorities.

WORKING FAMILIES

The gap between work and school schedules amounts to as much as 25 hours per week, presenting a challenge for working parents. Boys & Girls Club has an impact on our community's economic development.

HIGH-RISK KIDS

60% of Boys & Girls Club members qualify for free or reduced lunch, compared with the school district average of 33%.

The positive programs and mentorship offered by Boys & Girls Club help young people achieve academic success, develop good character and citizenship, and learn healthy lifestyles.



OUR K-5th GRADE PROGRAM ROCKS

Boys & Girls Club and the Lawrence Public Schools have a strong partnership and will continue to work together to meet the needs of all students in Lawrence. By providing space in all the elementary schools after school and during the summer free of charge to Boys & Girls Club, the district is invested in the importance of out-of-school time. And the Club has grown exponentially — from 150 members in 1999 to more than 3,000 in 2015. Over the years, the partnership has contributed to some tremendous youth development outcomes.

The research is clear. Early intervention works. So, for the last 15 years, Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence has focused on serving more elementary school students.

The results are equally clear. Teachers tell us repeatedly that youngsters in our Club have academic success, improved behavior, and better life skills. Their success has been noticed by more and more parents, leading to the phenomenal growth of the program.

- The achievement gap between all students and students of color has decreased significantly.
- Boys & Girls Club's Summer Enrichment Program diminishes summer learning loss by 10–12% for the 1,100 kids enrolled.
- 25% of Club members showed improvement in behavior at school, according to teacher surveys.
- 30% of Club members improved their grades in math, and 33% improved their grades in reading.
- Office referrals were reduced by 80% at Kennedy Elementary in the spring of 2012, after a full-year of Positive Behavioral Instructional Support.

THEN WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?



The current Teen Center has capacity to serve just 3% of the school district's 6th–8th graders, and even fewer high school students.

Our middle and high school students need options.

With the expansion and success of our Club's elementary programs, the majority of 5th grade members will not be able to continue coming to the Club in middle school because there is not enough room.

The current Teen Center, located at 1520 Haskell Avenue, has capacity to serve only 70 of the school district's 2,300 6th–8th graders (that's just 3% of them, as compared with our ability to serve 63% of K–5th graders). It is simply too small and outdated to provide the same level of quality, interest-based educational programs for students past 5th grade.

There are few affordable, structured programs available for middle and high school youth after school and during the summer. These years are critical times for young people who are making decisions that will affect the rest of their lives. Experimenting with drugs and alcohol, gangs, poor choices in school, unhealthy eating and exercise habits, and premature sexual activity are all potential behaviors that students can develop when they are not in a safe, positive environment after school and during the summer.

While some participate in sports or have jobs, there remains a large number of middle school youth who go home alone after school or hang out with friends in mostly unsupervised places.

Local police report increased nuisance calls and criminal activity by middle school youth in Lawrence during after-school hours, especially on Wednesdays when middle schools release early.

WHAT'S THE ANSWER?

Our Youth of the Year participants show us the impact of remaining active in the Club through middle and high school. Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence has produced five state Youth of the Year champions and one national winner. All credit the Club with helping them overcome obstacles, setting goals for the future, and understanding the importance of giving back to their community.

We need to build on this strong legacy of youth development and support more teen members. Boys & Girls Club leaders plan a facility tailored to be inspiring and appealing for middle school and high school students, which will include the following:

- a quiet, larger study space for homework and tutoring
- a teaching kitchen with cooking stations where kids can learn to make healthy meals
- studios for members interested in performing arts (dance, theater, and music)
- a technology center with the latest tools for educational enrichment, career exploration, fun, interactive gaming, and movie making
- a full-size gymnasium for indoor activities that promote exercise and fitness
- outdoor space for gardening and physical activity
- efficient administrative space
- other multipurpose indoor and outdoor space

REALLY? WHY NOT PARTNER WITH EXISTING FACILITIES?

The partnership between the schools and Boys & Girls Club is key to the long-term sustainability of the Club, as there would be no way the Club could serve 1,400 kids every day without the in-kind space the district provides. Boys & Girls Club also has excellent partnerships with other organizations that offer programs for youth such as Lawrence Parks & Recreation, the Lawrence Public Library, the Lawrence Police Department, and the Lawrence Arts Center. The Club will continue to coordinate efforts with these and other youth-centered organizations to serve young people.

Lawrence needs a new Teen Center because no facility currently exists that provides all the spaces and programs needed to make an impact on the youth we need to serve.

- Sports Pavilion Lawrence at Rock Chalk Park is a great sports complex, but it doesn't offer quiet rooms for homework help and tutoring, computer labs, or art and music rooms. Rock Chalk Park is also a 30-minute bus ride each way for many of our high-risk youth.
- Similarly, neighborhood recreation centers do not offer the diversity of programming needed for the Club to meet its mission for local teens. These places are already full with scheduled classes or neighborhood free play. There simply is not room.
- The Club has tried operating after-school programs in middle schools in the past, but found that middle school kids do not want to stay in the same school all day. Middle schools also lack consistent access to high-demand spaces like computer labs, the theater and the gym during after-school hours.
- The new public library and the Lawrence Arts Center are dynamic facilities, but they don't provide consistent access to space or meet the recreational and social requirements of the Club's programs.

"USD 497 is committed to the ongoing partnership with Boys & Girls Club. They provide an invaluable resource for our youth. The middle level students would greatly benefit from a facility specifically designed to meet their needs." —Dr. Rick Doll, Superintendent

"We see a new Boys & Girls Club Teen Center as a great opportunity to engage and encourage a large group of kids who currently have no supervision after school. This is a vital service that Boys & Girls Club is providing." —Tarik Khatib, Chief of Police

A NEW TEEN CENTER WILL HELP ALL OF US

INCREASE GRADUATION RATES

While the overall graduation rate (90%) in Lawrence is above the 80% national rate, not all our youth succeed.

Below are some examples of groups who are not as successful:

Hispanic males: 70%
Hispanic females: 83%
African-American males: 77%
Males on free lunch at school: 66%
Females on free lunch at school: 80%

INSPIRE LIFE GOALS

Young adults with bachelor's degrees earn more than twice as much as those without high school diplomas and 59% more than those with high school diplomas.¹

IMPROVE THE LOCAL ECONOMY

If just 10 Club members graduate from high school, who otherwise wouldn't, we will add \$2 million to our economy over their lifetimes. The economic impact of healthy, productive high school graduates is astounding, and it's within Lawrence's reach. And, in the meantime, parents can be more productive at work knowing their kids are in a safe environment after school.

DECREASE YOUTH OBESITY

Nationwide, 33% of high school students are overweight or obese and 75% of them are not physically active for at least an hour each day. Over a lifetime, the medical costs associated with childhood obesity total about \$19,000 more per child than those for a child of normal weight.² Boys & Girls Club addresses this by providing exercise, fitness, and healthy eating opportunities every day.



PROMOTE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND VOLUNTEERISM

Boys & Girls Club improves character and citizenship in young people. When compared with their peers, youth who participated in civic engagement programs were:

- less likely to become pregnant or use drugs during their teen years
- observed to have higher rates of school engagement and attendance
- more likely to attend college
- more likely to have positive attitudes toward work
- more likely to vote as young adults.⁵

DECREASE JUVENILE CRIME RATES

Nationwide, 29% of all violent crime committed by juvenile offenders occurs between 3–7pm. Violent crimes by juveniles peak in the afternoon between 3–4pm, the hour school is released.³ By providing a safe, positive environment after school, we minimize opportunity for teens to commit crime.

DECREASE COSTS BY PREVENTING CRIME

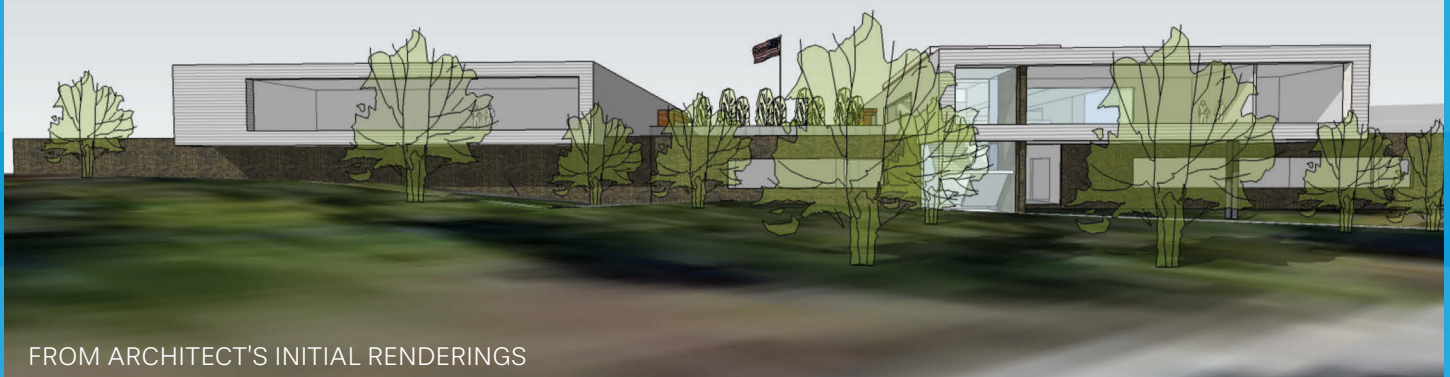
Correctional facilities in the U.S. spend \$241 per day per incarcerated youth.⁴ By keeping Lawrence's youth productive and safe, Boys & Girls Club is preventing juvenile crime and associated costs. Operating the new Teen Center is projected to cost only \$10 per day per young person served.

GREAT FUTURES START HERE

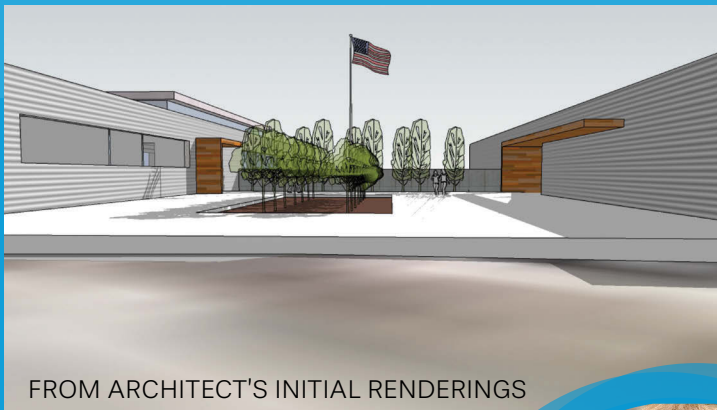
The proposed new Teen Center will be located adjacent to the school district's new College and Career Center in southeast Lawrence. The district has offered to provide land, and the situation is ideal: The partnership between the schools and Boys & Girls Club is already strong, some key spaces can be shared rather than being duplicated, and young teens will be exposed to the opportunities offered by the College and Career Center, inspiring them to think about what's next after high school. The fact that the new Dwayne Peaslee Technical Training Center (Peaslee Tech) will be at the same campus is also a plus, as kids can see more possibilities down the road.

Boys & Girls Club Teen Center

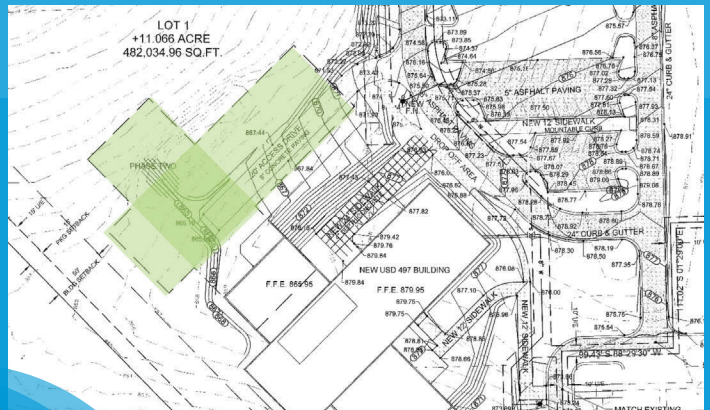
College and Career Center



FROM ARCHITECT'S INITIAL RENDERINGS



FROM ARCHITECT'S INITIAL RENDERINGS



With the completion of the new trafficway, our buses will efficiently pick up and return youth who need transportation to and from all four middle schools. We currently operate four buses and can transport more than 200 students per day. Additionally, there will be easy access to local transportation from this location.

The facility will be designed with teen interests and needs in mind. We are surveying all middle school students in the district, and Club members will be actively involved on fundraising, design, and construction teams. We will hire and train professional staff to create a quality Club experience that will include:

- a positive and safe environment,
- supportive relationships,
- opportunities and expectations,
- recognition
- and lots of fun, so the students who need our support most will have it as they develop healthy life skills.

Our first commitment is to Lawrence kids and to expanding our proven success to reach more teens.

We currently charge an annual membership fee of \$25 but will not turn anyone away because of inability to pay. The Board of Directors is taking special care to anticipate both capital and annual operating expenses so that we do not "over build" something we cannot afford to maintain.



PROJECT BUDGET

Lawrence is a great community that has repeatedly demonstrated its commitment to youth. All of its youth. That's why we say **GREAT FUTURES START [HERE](#)**.

New Teen Center construction		
25,000 square feet at \$180/sf	\$	4,500,000
Project soft costs and FFE		
fundraising, legal, financing, etc.		
plus fixtures, furnishings, and equipment		500,000
Total	\$	5,000,000

NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

Your investment in this capital campaign will be recognized and appreciated now and in the future. We gratefully offer the following naming opportunities in recognition of your gift:

Your Gift of...	Naming and Gift Recognition Opportunity	
\$ 1,000,000	Exterior Club Naming	
\$ 500,000	Interior Main Entrance	
\$ 250,000	Central Meeting Hall	
\$ 100,000 or greater	Gymnasium	
	Classroom	
	Kitchen	
	Reception Area	
	Social Worker Offices	(2 opportunities available)
\$ 50,000 or greater	Administration Offices	(2 opportunities available)
	Lounge Areas	(2 opportunities available)
	Playground	
	Small Meeting Rooms	(3 opportunities available)
\$ 25,000 or greater	Outdoor Patio	
\$ 10,000 or greater		

Donor Wall Recognition
Gifts of \$1,000 or greater will be recognized collectively on a donor wall to be prominently displayed at the Main Entrance

Donor Book Recognition
All gifts will be recognized in a Campaign Celebration Program following the campaign.

Please note: Naming opportunities are subject to change based on final design of the facility, but every attempt will be made to meet donor requests.

LAUNCH A GREAT FUTURE

There are many ways you can invest in the **GREAT FUTURES START HERE** campaign.

Make a pledge. Make a gift to the campaign, pledged over a five-year giving period. You may choose to satisfy your pledge through monthly, quarterly, or annual payments. Or structure your own pledge payment schedule. You can satisfy your pledge through payments by check, direct deposit, or credit card. We gladly accept VISA, Master Card, and Discover. And we will be happy to send you reminders of pledge payments as they become due.

Make a gift of securities. Gifts of highly appreciated assets, such as stock with a very low basis, make excellent charitable gifts. By donating stock, you avoid costly gains and significantly help Lawrence teens at the same time. We will be happy to assist you in transferring assets to complete your gift.

Make a customized gift of other property. Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence appreciates other — more customized — types of gifts such as items donated in-kind, and real and personal property. We will be glad to visit with you about our guidelines for accepting special gifts.

Make a deferred gift. For some donors, a planned gift — or other type of deferred giving arrangement — may better suit your financial and planning needs. These can be structured through a variety of vehicles, including a bequest in a will, a trust arrangement, and other income-producing vehicles such as life insurance and annuities. In considering a planned gift, it is best to consult your tax, legal, and financial advisor(s). We will be happy to work with you and your advisor(s) to structure a gift that best suits your tax and estate planning needs.

NOTES

- 1 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, July 7, 2014, http://www.bls.gov/emp/ep_chart_001.htm
- 2 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance — United States, 2013", <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss6304.pdf>
- 3 OJJDP Statistical Briefing Book
- 4 Petteruti, Velasquez, and Walsh: "The Costs of Confinement: Why Good Juvenile Justice Policies Make Good Fiscal Sense."
- 5 http://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Child_Trends-2002_10_01_RB_CivicEngagement.pdf

For more information, contact:

Colby Wilson, Executive Director,
at cwilson@bgclk.org
or 785-424-5211.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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