



THEIR FUTURE IS IN YOUR HANDS

Building a New Boys & Girls Clubs
of Greater Kalamazoo





WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Help Us Build a Safe Place for Children to Learn and Grow

Dear Friends:

Each day, many children and teens in our community leave school with little direction. Without supervision and positive activities to engage their interest and attention, these kids often find their way to behaviors that negatively impact their futures. Substance abuse, criminal activity, sexual experimentation, and other destructive tendencies lead to significant problems for these kids and larger societal costs that impact all of us.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kalamazoo is here to help solve that problem by providing educational and recreational after-school programs free of charge to youth in the community.

To meet this goal, we need your help.

The leadership of Boys & Girls Clubs recently launched *Their Future is in Your Hands* campaign, a \$9 million fundraising effort to fund construction of a new facility. We have agreed to chair this effort because we believe that an investment in area youth is an investment in our entire community.

With your help, our success will demonstrate that Kalamazoo strongly believes in our next generation and values their energy, hope and optimism. Please join us in supporting this worthwhile endeavor!

Sincerely,



Robert J. Ezelle Cynthia J. Ezelle

Bob & Cindy Ezelle
Campaign Co-Chairs



Ean Hamilton Philip Hamilton

Ean & Philip Hamilton
Campaign Co-Chairs

BUILDING A BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE

Programming Continues Through Pandemic and Transition Period

“As we launch our campaign and prepare to build a new facility, our board, staff and volunteers are tackling some of the biggest challenges we’ve faced in years at Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kalamazoo.

COVID-19 deeply affected our ability to deliver programs, and at the same time it injected uncertainty into the lives of those we serve. We have used this past year to equip our facilities with safety protections, and we’ve restructured hands-on and virtual programs to serve as many children and families as possible. As of this writing, we’re providing virtual learning and we have opened all three units for drop-in programming. We’ll work tirelessly to earn the trust the community places in us during this important campaign.”



Matt Lynn
Chief Executive Officer



Travis Cree
Chair - Board of Directors

Our Board & Campaign Leadership

HONORARY CO-CHAIRS:

Janice Brown
Von Washington, Jr.

CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIRS:

Bob & Cindy Ezelle
Ean & Philip Hamilton

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Nancy Anderson
Larry Bell
Alex Bigelow
Bob Borsos
Travis Cree
Joe Kiser
John Koryto
Sam Lealofi
James Liggins
Anne Lipsey
Brian Mick
Namita Sharma
Patti Sholler-Barber
Jeff Wescott
Doug Zwart

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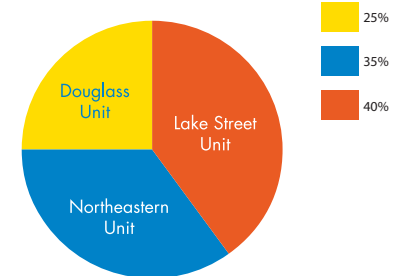
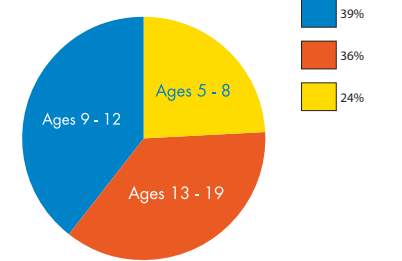
HERE'S WHAT WE DO

Clubs Provide Meaningful, Personal Opportunities for Growth

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kalamazoo has earned its reputation as “the positive place for kids.” Although the Clubs address basic needs with meals and snacks, personal growth and development sits at the heart of sophisticated programs that develop:

- Health and lifestyle skills;
- Artistic talent and expression;
- Study habits and learning ability;
- Teamwork and social skills; and
- Civic responsibility.

Boys and girls in the Clubs, age 5 to 19, benefit from homework help, character development, computer skills and career guidance. Family programming makes it possible for parents and siblings to grow together.



THE SUMMER EXPERIENCE – Donated for \$1 in the late 1960s, a 200-acre retreat near Hastings has allowed Boys & Girls Clubs members to fish, swim, learn about nature and learn more about themselves each summer. An average of 50 youth attend each summer session, boys one week and girls the next.

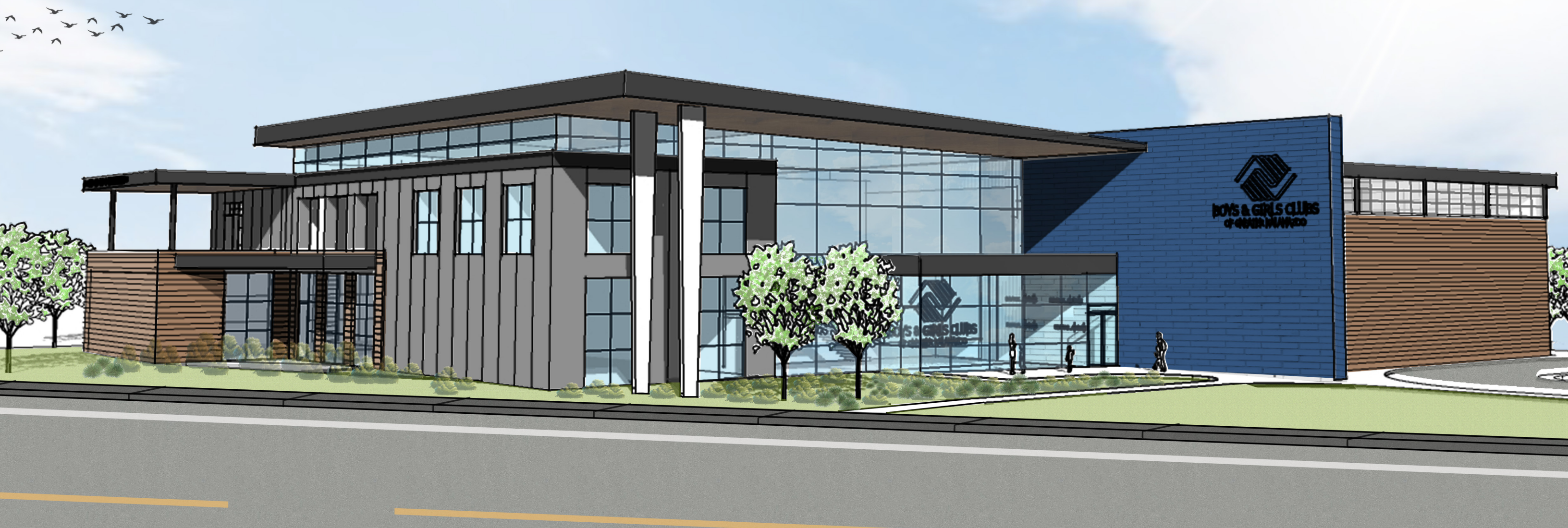


Vision Takes Shape

The new youth center for Boys & Girls Clubs, with 30,000 square feet of usable space, meets the diverse programming needs of today's youth. The \$9 million facility will replace the long-standing annex connected to the Edison Environmental Science Academy, which is being rebuilt exclusively for Kalamazoo Public Schools.

Benefits of this Site

- Centrally located to Downtown Kalamazoo
- More and better space for programs
- Superior pricing and construction options compared to other alternatives
- Opportunity for future expansion
- Capacity for 200 – 250 youth each day
- Increased daily food access for youth
- Improved year-round programming



WHAT THEY SAY

INTERIOR SPACES at the new youth center are being designed for computer work, participating arts, media, health and wellness, studying, games and sports, science exploration, teen activities and quiet time. Naming opportunities are available for the building's areas and rooms. The building will also serve the administrative needs of all three unit locations.



Boys and Girls:

"My favorite thing to do here is dancing."
Malayah

"They let us express our talents."
Danniyah

"We can pursue our dreams. The staff is wonderful"
Ganaisa

"They let us become who we want to become."
Gerry

A board member:

"We knew that taking on the construction of a new facility would test our organizational capabilities. We have a lot of work to do over the next few years."
Doug Zwart

A parent:

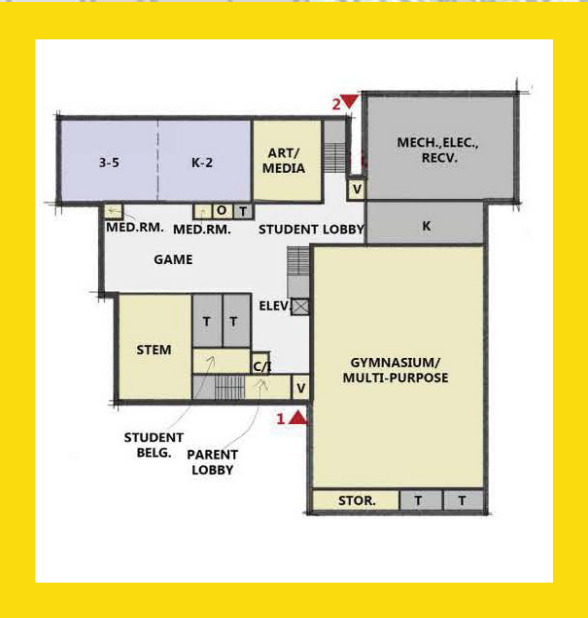
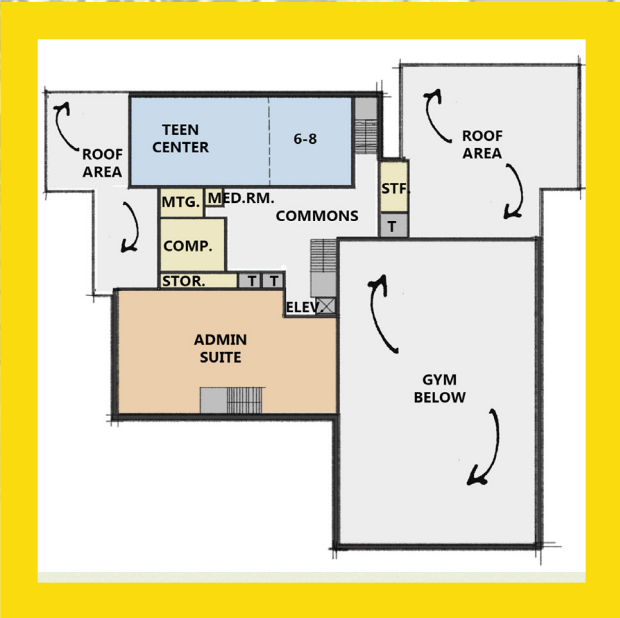
"I asked her what her favorite memory is, and she remembered a success she had one day walking away from a situation that was getting her angry, and how proud Mr. James was that she did that. He recognized her growth and acknowledged it to her."
Joanna P.

A staff member:

"Our heart is in this, and it's in it for the community, and especially for the future of the members coming through our Clubs."
Sarah M.

A funder:

"Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kalamazoo meets unique, specific, and personal needs. A fine example is the Participating Arts Program, which instills "a sense of confidence, usefulness, belonging and influence" in children and youth. This program has specifically assisted its participants by building their esteem and self-confidence; developing their technical skills; enhancing their aesthetic assessment capabilities; supporting their imagination and creativity; and exhibiting their artistic work. Participating Arts also provides a means for its participants to get out and observe the world from another perspective, as they often, for the first time, experience art museums and quality live performances."
Richard M. Hughey, Jr.
Executive Vice President/CEO
Irving S. Gilmore Foundation



COLLABORATION KEY TO MANY SUCCESSES

"In our community work over the years, one thing has stood out. Successful organizations don't go it alone. The adage that 'it takes a village' is particularly important in youth work because of all the forces at work: family, school, neighborhood, peer pressure and temptations that work against personal development.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kalamazoo has distinguished itself for the relationships that have met important needs and changed lives. Kalamazoo Public Schools, The Kalamazoo Promise, Western Michigan University and the United Way, along with other nonprofits, local governments and businesses, have partnered successfully with the Clubs, providing professional expertise, program enhancement, added resources and volunteers to this critical work.

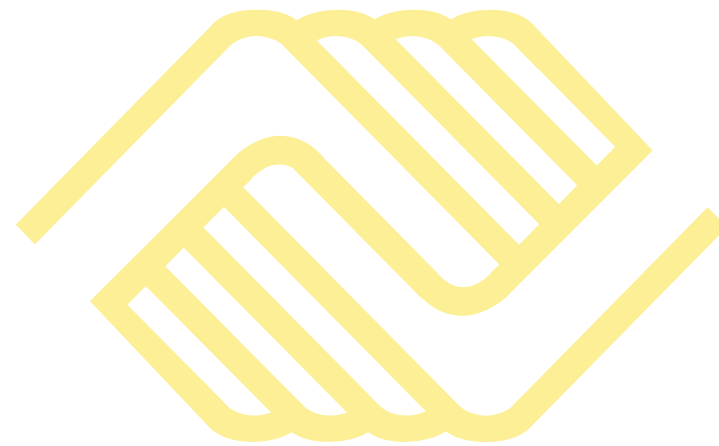
We encourage you to join us in this campaign. Indeed, the future of our community youth is in your hands."



Janice Brown
Honorary Co-Chair



Von Washington, Jr.
Honorary Co-Chair



OUR PROUD HISTORY

New Facility Will Be Across the Street from Original Site

Created by a local board of directors in 1953 and chartered in 1961 by the national organization, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kalamazoo has been a powerful force to improve the lives of thousands of children in our community. Two towering figures, Dick Milne and Bob Ezelle, led the Clubs for more than five decades, but success has resulted from the collective work of countless individuals, community organizations and foundations, along with boards of directors, staff members and volunteers.

In his 20 years of service, Milne distinguished himself by moving the Clubs to the Edison School, creating what became a national movement to serve both boys and girls, and mentoring Ezelle, a leadership figure whose influence touched every part of the community.

Founded at the corner of Portage and Vine, right across the street from where the new facility will be built, the Boys Club as it was then known, was one of the first, if not the first, club in the nation to begin serving both boys and girls.

After-school activities, the signature work of the Clubs, blossomed over the years into educational, character-building and life-enhancing programs to meet the complex needs of young people and their families.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kalamazoo is seeking \$9 million in community philanthropy to help fund our plan to build a new youth center in the heart of our community. You can help us achieve this important goal by supporting this campaign through:

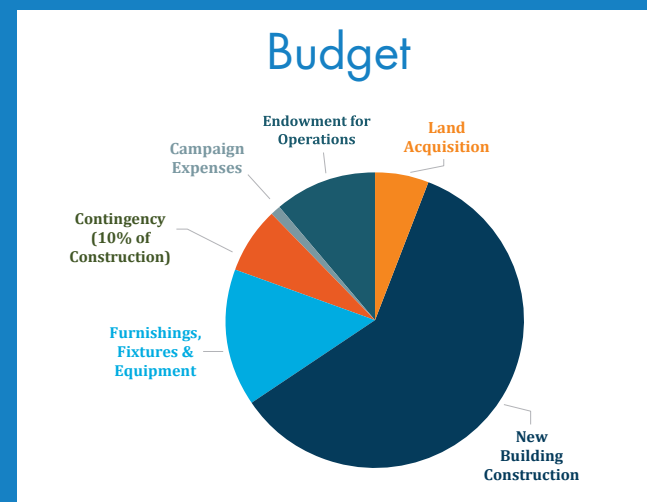
- A one-time cash gift;
- A multiple-year pledge commitment (may be paid over a three-year period);
- A gift of appreciated assets such as stock; or
- An estate gift.

Your charitable gift is tax deductible to the full extent of state and federal law. Please check with your tax advisor to determine how your gift may affect your personal tax situation.



Campaign Cost Projections

LINE ITEM	EXPENSE
Land Acquisition	\$550,000.00
New Building Construction	\$5,383,960.00
Soft Costs (Fixtures, Furnishings)	\$1,365,840.00
Contingency (10% of Total)	\$674,980.00
Campaign Expenses (1% of Total)	\$120,000.00
Endowment for Operations	\$1,000,000.00
Total	\$9,094,780.00





**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF GREATER KALAMAZOO**

Lake Street Unit in the Edison Neighborhood
915 Lake Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49001

Douglass Unit in the Northside Neighborhood
1000 W. Paterson Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Northeastern Unit in the Eastside Neighborhood
2433 Gertrude St., Kalamazoo, MI 49048

**QUESTIONS? CONTACT MATT LYNN AT MATTL@BGCKZOO.ORG, 269-349-4485 - EXT. 101
BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF GREATER KALAMAZOO - P.O. BOX 2827 KALAMAZOO, MI 49003**