



AMPLIFY IMPACT 2023

ANNUAL REPORT

2023: A Year of Amplifying our Impact

BGCA Native Services is proud to reflect on the many positive outcomes and benchmark achievements of the year, both locally and nationally. The committed work of our team and our extended Native Club family – including our Club professionals, partners and donors – has amplified the impact of our Indigenous Movement, ensuring a more strongly-rooted path forward and more positive futures for Native youth.

Native Clubs, along with staff and volunteers, are central in ensuring that this care helps shape what our Native youth are able to achieve. Over the course of 2023, we have worked alongside Club staff to further our collective mission, by growing our footprint with new Native Club locations; working to strengthen Tribal partnerships; enriching and expanding available culturally-relevant program offerings; and magnifying youth voice by advocating for Native Club needs at all levels of government. It is through this work, that we continue to find ways to grow, for both our Movement and Indigenous young people.

In 2023, a key area of Club support has come in the form of personal consultations, trainings, events, culturally relevant resources and Native Adaptations of BGCA programs. Opportunities offered this year have included our Amplify Impact Webinar Series, in-person trainings, toolkits, support networks and the return of our regional Native Learning Events. These new offerings have helped Native Clubs connect to our overall Boys & Girls Club mission, learn effective strategies for youth engagement, including trauma-informed practices and social-emotional learning and network with Native Club staff from other organizations.

The following report demonstrates BGCA Native Services' efforts and successes in 2023, in addition to highlighting the necessary support of our donors and partners and the daily engagement of our Native Clubs and their members. It is through this committed and collaborative work that we remain steadfast and united in our goal of meeting Native youth in the present and walking alongside them as they discover their identity through their Indigenous heritage.





A Warm Welcome from BGCA's National Vice President of Native Services

As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude for the ways in which BGCA Native Services has been able to drive our Indigenous Movement forward by amplifying the already critical impact of Native Clubs in Tribal communities. Whether through the creation and implementation of culturally relevant programming; the search for diverse funding streams, grant opportunities and governmental support; or expansion into new communities, Native Clubs worked diligently and collaboratively to ensure that Native youth had access to the best possible resources and programming.

BGCA Native Services has been honored to work closely with Native Clubs in order to achieve these outcomes. As we continue our collective recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, our central focus in 2023 has been to return strong through a diverse array of Executive Trainings, networking and shared resources. This includes the Amplify Impact Webinar Series; the creation of a new Native Track through Spillett Leadership University; the development of a new Youth Development Professionals Toolkit; our Indigenous Connections Movement Resource Group; Trauma-Informed/Safety Improvement Networks and the return of regional Native Learning Events. Over the past year, we have been continually impressed and energized by the ways in which our Native Clubs have been utilizing these resources and trainings to expand their impact and reach.

This report showcases the countless ways our extended Native Club family has been able to amplify the impact of our mission. This has been achieved through the provision of resources, the commitment of our partners, the support of our donors and the hard work of our Native Club staff and volunteers. With this coalition of support, we are finishing the year stronger than ever and stand confident in our ability to provide dedicated culturally relevant experiences for Native youth!



Woliwoni,

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

Carla Knapp

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

Words from BGCA's Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer

When you walk through the doors of a Native Boys & Girls Club, you see so many wonders. You see young people engaged in caring relationships with adult mentors, in a safe and nurturing environment. You see trained professionals applying evidence-based programs and proven development strategies for the direct benefit of youth. You see youth, staff and volunteers bound together by a common heritage, with a deep and abiding respect for shared tradition and culture. You see a thoughtful fusion of past, present and future, with a reverence for ancient wisdom and an appreciation for new possibilities. You see kids being kids – while learning to be adults.

For 31 years, Boys & Girls Clubs on Native Lands have been a beacon and a bridge for Native youth, giving them not just a place to go, but a place to grow. Native Clubs provide a vital point of connection, as kids learn how to navigate the complexities of a rapidly changing society. Through their efforts, these Clubs – and the staff and Tribal leaders who lead them – inspire aspirations. They enable dreams.

Boys & Girls Clubs on Native Lands are the largest service providers to indigenous young people in America today – and we're extremely proud of that. However, there is always more to do. As we embark upon a new strategic direction for our Movement, the growth of Clubs on Native Lands will continue to be a priority. As such, we will partner with new Tribal communities and seek to provide more Native youth and teens with transformational experiences, while expanding our footprint and deepening our commitment to our nation's first peoples.

In these and all other efforts, BGCA Native Services, as well as all the other staff at the national organization, will continue to honor this partnership, respect sovereignty and lift up the countless contributions of Tribal nations across America. Please join me and the entire BGCA family in celebrating an outstanding year for Native Clubs! We look forward with anticipation to an even better year ahead.



Fondly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lorraine Orr'.

Lorraine Orr

Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer
Boys & Girls Clubs of America

Message from BGCA's President & CEO

As we reflect on 2023, we are proud to have served more than 120,000 children and teens on Native Lands while moving the mission forward. We began the year still energized by reaching our 30-year milestone the year prior. Boys & Girls Clubs of America remains proud of its singular position as the nation's longest serving and largest provider of Native youth services. Individually, Boys & Girls Clubs on Native Lands represent a diverse range of more than 150 Tribes, cultures, and rich traditions, yet, collectively, all share a common commitment to supporting and empowering Native youth. This cultural tapestry and dedication were never more evident than when I had the privilege of meeting with so many Native CEOs this year at the New Executive Orientation. The depth of passion and unwavering commitment to one's Tribe and family that each leader demonstrates is both impressive and inspiring. With the support of the national organization, Native Club CEOs have led the way, driving strong performance and outcomes leading to incredible growth.

In 2023, we added 11 new Native Clubs across five states. Today, 245 Boys & Girls Clubs now serve American Indian, Alaska Native, American Samoan and Hawaiian Tribal populations – an achievement worth celebrating. And yet, there is still significant unmet need. We will continue to prioritize opening new Clubs across Native Lands to further shrink this gap. In addition to growth, we also made significant headway in strengthening our ability to address some of the ongoing challenges facing today's youth in our Native Clubs. In particular, many Native youth have experienced intergenerational trauma and marginalization. As our nation continues to confront the consequences of this painful legacy, removing barriers to opportunities and providing trauma-informed support for Native youth is crucial. That's why I'm especially proud of BGCA's commitment to becoming a trauma-informed Movement by 2025, with Native Services leading the way. In 2023, all BGCA Native Services leadership completed trauma-informed training, and are equipped to take a holistic, healing-centered approach in caring for young people so they can develop the social-emotional skills needed to be successful in life.

As we close the chapter on this year and look forward, we do so with a firm resolve, knowing that Boys & Girls Clubs in Native communities play an essential role in providing the safe place for young people to learn, grow, and realize their potential in the world while remaining deeply rooted in their cultures and to their diverse Tribal connections. Please read on to learn more about the 2023 achievements of Native Clubs and our vision for the year ahead. And thank you for your continued support of BGCA Native Services.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James L. Clark', written in a cursive style.

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

[Boys & Girls Clubs of America Native Services](#) | [2023 Annual Report](#)

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

Board of Directors

The Boys & Girls Clubs in Indian Country Board of Directors, composed 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 & Chief Executive Officer
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, Native Services
Boys & Girls Clubs of America

Lorraine Orr

Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer
Boys & Girls Clubs of America

Andra Rush

Chief Executive Officer
Dakota Integrated Systems

Kristine Morain

Executive Vice President, General Counsel
Boys & Girls Clubs of America

Valerie Red-Horse Mohl

President & Co-Founder
Known Holdings

Gary Wendt

Retired
Capital Management



Collective Impact

In 2023, Native youth participated in a variety of strength and evidence-based, trauma-informed and culturally relevant programs that helped them achieve their full potential. BGCA's Native Adaptations of Boys & Girls Club programs enable young people to achieve positive outcomes in four areas: Health and Well-being, Character & Leadership, Academic Success and Life & Workforce Readiness to ensure our youth are on the path to Great Futures.



OVER **80,000** YOUTH SERVED IN **245** CLUBHOUSES

NATIVE CLUBS PROVIDED:



OVER **2 MILLION** MEALS & SNACKS DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR

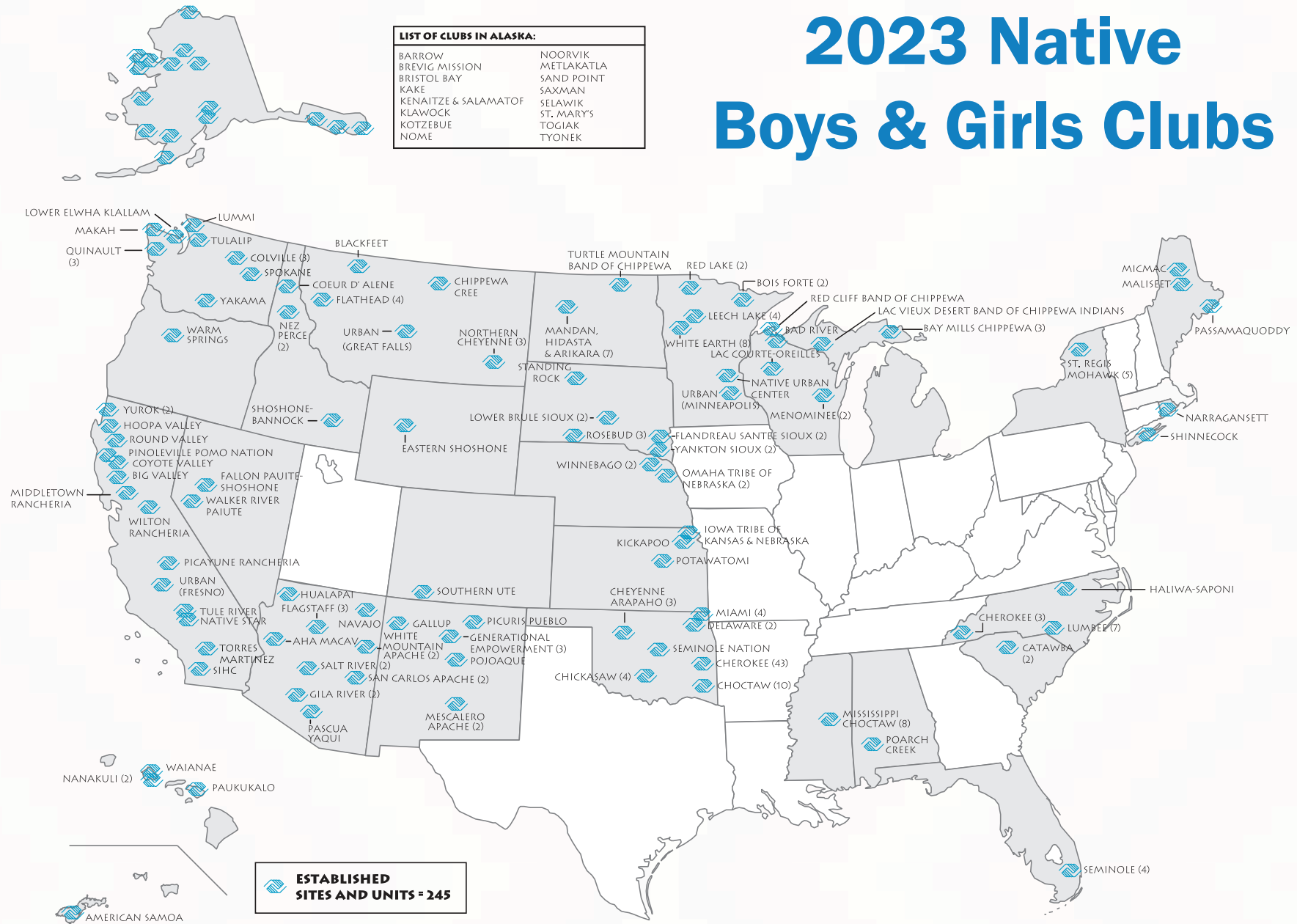


SERVICES TO NEARLY **17,000** NATIVE TEENS



OVER **9** NATIVE ADAPTATIONS OF BOYS & GIRLS CLUB PROGRAMS

2023 Native Boys & Girls Clubs



Sharing our Impact

\$5M INVESTMENT FROM CHEROKEE NATION

Cherokee Nation generously earmarked \$5 million within their Tribal jurisdiction in northeastern Oklahoma to be used for the expansion of youth services including nine Native Boys & Girls Clubs, enhanced food distribution/security programs and capital improvements to new and existing Clubhouses. Chuck Hoskin, Principal Chief of Cherokee Nation, stated, “So much of what we aspire to do for young people are things our local Boys & Girls Clubs are already doing. We cannot measure what it means for a young person to have a place to go after school during those crucial hours, or to have a place where they can find nutrition programs and healthy meals.” Multiple recipients have used this funding to create new facilities that will allow them to expand their reach and better address the gap in services that exists for certain Native youth due to locational challenges from rural areas. Clubs have upgraded existing facilities and initiated the construction of three new Teen Centers in Oklahoma.



In addition to capital improvements, Native Clubs will also be able to sustain their food distribution programs for the foreseeable future through this funding. Many Clubs had previously been utilizing income from their general funding sources, which limited the reach of these programs. However, this donation will allow Club leadership to initiate broader food distribution to address food insecurities and will free funding in the general budgets of these Clubs. Lastly, a portion of this funding has been dedicated to staff salaries, allowing Clubs to provide services on more days in which school is not in session. Altogether, youth will have greater opportunities to receive enriching experiences in safe and welcoming Clubhouses with the knowledge that they are supported throughout their time at the Club.

As we continue to amplify our impact and support Native youth, generous contributions such as these will enable more young people to learn lasting traditional values and connect with their heritage through Native Clubs. BGCA Native Services and Native Clubs located within Cherokee Nation extend our gratitude and appreciation to the Tribe for designating significant unprecedented funding to Native Boys & Girls Clubs.

Programs with Native Adaptations

BGCA Native Services continues to amplify our impact by offering tailored Native Adaptations for Boys & Girls Club programs which honor Tribal culture. These evidence-informed programs provide youth with an opportunity to experience Native traditions, while learning valuable modern skills. The adaptations help link the past with the present and allow youth to connect with their heritage. BGCA Native Services continually works to ensure that Native culture and history are interwoven within Club programming.

In 2023, the following culturally adapted programs were offered:

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. 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.



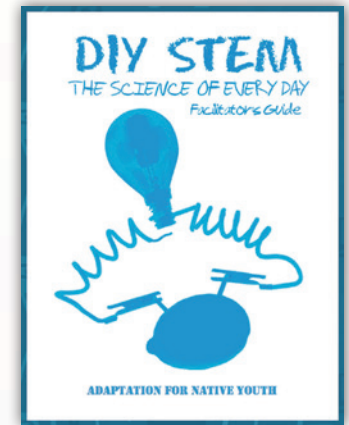
Diplomas to Degrees

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.



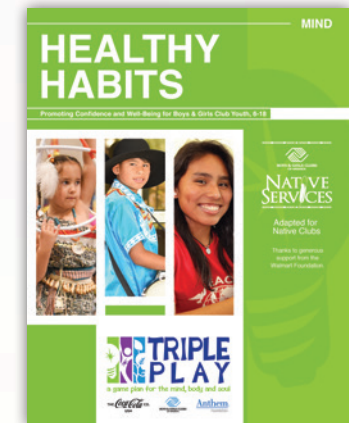
DIY Stem

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 well-being.



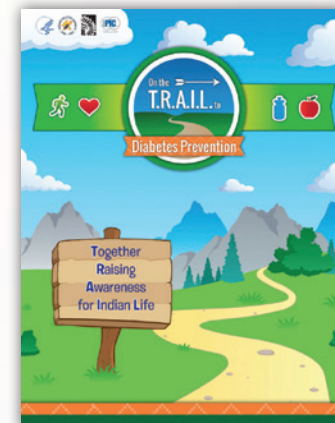
MyFuture

MyFuture 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, MyFuture teaches youth valuable digital skills. MyFuture 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.



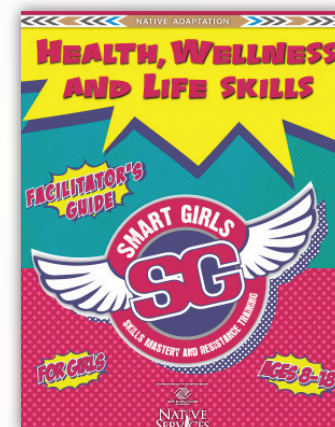
On the T.R.A.I.L. To Diabetes Prevention

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.



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**.



Partner Spotlight



GARY WENDT

As BGCA Native Services offers appreciation to our valuable partner organizations, we must also give a special thank you to our dedicated supporter, Gary Wendt. As one of our key donors, Mr. Wendt has brought the same generous and engaged spirit that made him so successful in his business ventures. His support has ensured the continued financial sustainability and viability of Native Boys & Girls Clubs.



In an interview, Wendt once counseled, “Empowerment is the most important thing you can do as a leader.” This is Wendt’s driving ethos and propels his generous funding of culturally-relevant STEM and evidence-based programs for Native youth. Wendt’s support helps ensure sustainable growth and development towards BGCA Native Services’ short and long-term goals. Due to his multi-level support, Native youth are empowered to achieve academic success and reach their goals.

As the chief sponsor for BGCA Native Services’ five regional Native Learning Events, Wendt created opportunities for youth development professionals to learn strategies and methods in order to more effectively implement key programs. These programs help build and strengthen young people’s sense of identity, belief in their abilities and hope for the future. Thanks to Wendt’s key support of this initiative and others like it, Native Clubs were able to amplify the power of their programming, making it all the more impactful for the youth they serve. BGCA Native Services is sincerely grateful to Gary Wendt for his investment in Native youth services and the opportunities that his gracious financial and leadership gifts continue to foster.

Executive Trainings

BGCA Native Services continues to ensure that Native Club staff and leadership are provided with opportunities for professional growth and advancement throughout the course of each year. In 2023, BGCA Native Services provided impactful and relevant trainings for Native Club staff which included the Amplify Impact Webinar Series; 2023 BGCA National Conference; Spillett Leadership University – Native Track; Youth Development Professionals Toolkit for Native Clubs; Indigenous Connections Movement Resource Group; Trauma-Informed Network and Safety Improvement Network. These events provided Native Club staff and leaders with a wealth of information on methods to support, enlighten and inspire their youth.

Amplify Impact Webinar Series

In 2023, BGCA Native Services held an Amplify Impact Webinar Series created specifically to build the capacity of Native Club professionals. These webinars were designed to cover a variety of topics vital to support the long-term success of staff. Topics included new resources available, advocacy, teen retention, grant writing, behavioral support for summer programming, membership requirements, safety consultation, trauma-informed care and strategic and endowment planning. Throughout this webinar series, Native Club professionals demonstrated their commitment to building the knowledge and skills needed to amplify their impact.



2023 BGCA National Conference

In May 2023, Boys & Girls Club staff and leadership gathered for the 117th BGCA National Conference in Orlando, FL. The focus of this year's conference was "Forward! United for America's Youth." This event provided valuable opportunities for Boys & Girls Club professionals to connect and discuss important issues facing our Movement. Participants heard from industry-leading speakers regarding ideas for charting a path forward for America's youth. BGCA Native Services and the Indigenous Connections Movement Resource Group (MRG) hosted a breakfast event which highlighted many of the central aspects of the MRG. This included peer networking, community building, career planning and providing high-quality Native youth services.



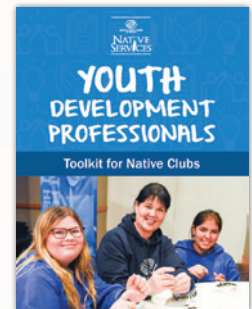
Spillet Leadership University – Native Track

BGCA Native Services launched the Spillet Leadership University (SLU) - Native Track in 2023 as part of our continued goal of providing Native Clubs with new training opportunities that best reflect the Native Club experience. SLU is Boys & Girls Clubs of America's comprehensive online training website. It is a valuable part of the BGCA framework and serves as a gateway for professional growth and development. The Native Track was developed to provide webinar trainings specifically geared toward Native Club professionals. This training tool enriches the Native Club space and provides culturally relevant training opportunities. Topics offered include endowment planning, marketing, member recruitment, summer programming, behavioral support, grant writing and the Trauma-Informed Network.



Youth Development Professionals Toolkit for Native Clubs

BGCA Native Services understands that Native Club staff are the driving force behind our collective achievements. With that in mind, the Youth Development Professionals Toolkit for Native Clubs was created to assist staff in furthering their professional development. This resource provides guidance on many aspects of youth development, including best practices in areas such as youth and family engagement, child safety, behavioral support and self-care. The toolkit provides additional youth development resources, including Native-adapted BGCA programs, staff training opportunities and supplemental tools to support capacity-building.



Indigenous Connections Movement Resource Group

In 2023, the Indigenous Connections Movement Resource Group (MRG) provided Club staff with opportunities to develop and exchange ideas specific to the needs of Native Clubs, such as peer networking, community building and career planning. Highlights of the group's work this year includes, hosting the 1 Day Native Track at BGCA National Conference where they reported survey results from Native professionals; inspiring the creation of the new Native Store on NAClubs.org to nurture a sense of belonging; and encouraging career development through the creation of the new Native Track on Spillet Leadership University. The MRG's overarching vision is to ensure Native Boys & Girls Club professionals have opportunities to amplify Indigenous culture, while also positively influencing the youth they serve in Native communities.



Trauma-Informed Network

BGCA Native Services' Trauma-Informed Network for Native Clubs helps youth development professionals recognize and respond to the historical trauma that has affected Native communities. With over 150 participants representing 90% of Native Boys & Girls Clubs, this initiative offers an eight-month capacity-building experience which enables Native Club staff to better understand the impact of trauma and to gain insight on implementing trauma-informed practices within their organizations. Participants are provided with monthly professional development opportunities, support with goals and peer consultations. Club professionals return to their organizations instilling trauma-informed practices into daily programming, furthering the long-term goal of BGCA Native Services for all Native Clubs to become fully trauma-informed organizations.



Safety Improvement Network

As part of BGCA Native Services' ongoing commitment to assist Native Clubs in providing a safe and nurturing environment for Native youth – this year saw the introduction of the Safety Improvement Network. Through this facilitator-led, peer-learning initiative, BGCA Native Services is empowered Native Clubs to develop and grow sustainable child safety committees over the course of five sessions throughout the year. These knowledge sharing meetings allowed participating Native Club committees to learn about many safety related topics including annual planning, committee composition, routine establishment, policy design and evaluation procedures. Following the training, participating committees were provided the space to discuss these topics in more depth. BGCA Native Services is immensely proud of the important progress that these newly formed safety committees have made over the past year.





Partner Spotlight



SAN MANUEL BAND OF MISSION INDIANS

Since 2003, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians has awarded more than \$350 million to Tribal governments and Tribal nonprofit organizations throughout the United States, and qualified nonprofits providing services in San Bernardino and Riverside counties.



San Manuel's charitable giving program, *San Manuel Cares*, is committed to supporting education, self-determination for all, community development – primarily in their ancestral lands, and they focus on the development of opportunities for Native communities and causes across the country.

The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians is a federally-recognized Indian Tribe located on the San Manuel Indian Reservation near Highland, California. San Manuel exercises its inherent sovereign right of self-governance and provides essential services for its citizens by building infrastructure, maintaining civil services, and promoting social, economic and cultural development. As the Indigenous people of the San Bernardino highlands, passes, valleys, mountains and high deserts, the Serrano people of San Manuel have called this area home since time immemorial and are committed to remaining a productive partner in the San Bernardino region.

➡ Sharing *our* Impact ⬅

SUPPORTING THE FIRST NATIVE WOMAN IN SPACE

Through a long-standing relationship between Club staff and University of Montana's Spectrum program, forty-eight youth from Boys & Girls Club of the Flathead Reservation and Lake County had the opportunity to tour the Kennedy Space Center and attend the launch of Crew 5. This launch was particularly notable for the inclusion of Nicole Mann, a member of the Round Valley Indian Tribe and the first Native woman in space. Chaperones had been mentoring youth participants prior to the trip through STEM related lessons and activities, creating a positive rapport and establishing trusting relationships with their mentees. Club staff found that the mentor-mentee relationships created a sense of increased excitement about the trip and allowed youth to be more comfortable while asking questions and interacting with complex topics.

With transportation assistance from S & K Technologies Corporation and additional support from Students to Launch and American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, youth mentees were flown to Cape Canaveral, FL to participate in this once in a lifetime experience. While onsite at Kennedy Space Center, mentees had the opportunity to visit the mission control center and press conference room before stepping outside to witness the launch of Crew 5. Learning about the operations of a space mission and witnessing a launch firsthand educated participating youth on the vastness of the STEM field and introduced them to potential career paths surrounding space exploration. To conclude this experience, youth were given the opportunity to create and send videos of themselves asking questions to Nicole Mann to be answered live on National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) TV. Having the opportunity to interact with a role model who came from a similar background helped the youth in attendance more easily envision themselves fulfilling these roles in the future.

Altogether, this event helped to empower participating youth to dream big when pursuing future career options. BGCA Native Services commends Boys & Girls Club of the Flathead Reservation and Lake County for leveraging partnerships to provide Native youth with a unique experience that will enable further career exploration and growth.



Organizational Development

BGCA Native Services saw continued growth in 2023 as we welcomed eight new Native Boys & Girls Clubs into our family! As we continued our efforts to provide adaptive and diverse programming options, we saw Clubs amplify their impact by providing culturally relevant and tailored services to Native communities. Our focus on capacity-building emphasizes the overall strength and potential of our organizations, while highlighting the continued need for training and resource development opportunities for Club professionals.

By expanding our footprint, we are able to reach more Native communities, providing vital culturally relevant resources to more Native youth, all while honoring our cultural richness and diversity. BGCA Native Services remains strongly committed to growth and we look forward to the welcoming additional Native Clubs in 2024 and beyond.



“ Native Boys & Girls Clubs continue to show their remarkable spirit each year with the desire to reach as many Native youth as possible. It is always inspiring to see how our current Clubs welcome new Native Clubs through our culture and shared heritage. In 2024, we will continue to amplify our impact on Native Lands to ensure Indigenous youth are provided with amazing futures, while keeping true to their Native heritage. ”

– Carla Knapp, National Vice President, BGCA Native Services





Partner Spotlight



INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

Indian Health Service (IHS) is dedicated to building healthy communities through strong partnerships and culturally responsive practices for American Indians and Alaska Natives. Since its creation in 1955, IHS has worked to raise the physical, mental and spiritual health of the American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) it serves and now reaches more than two million Tribal members and their descendants from the 574 federally recognized Tribes.



With a ten-year Memorandum of Understanding with BGCA Native Services, IHS will continue to enrich the lives of American Indian and Alaska Native youth in new ways. The MOU, designed to leverage the strengths of both organizations, will improve the lives of AI/AN youth across the nation through the BGCA framework. With Indigenous communities and young people facing significant disparities in health and life expectancy when compared with other Americans, this MOU is critical to bridging that divide.

Through the partnership with IHS, BGCA Native Services will be able to implement new programs to address issues faced by Native communities, such as alcohol/drug abuse, obesity, type 2 diabetes and suicide. Programs like these, which reach youth during key developmental periods, have the potential to change the direction of their lives and empower them to lead full, productive lives. BGCA Native Services extends its deepest gratitude to IHS for its commitment to promoting the well-being of AI/AN youth across the nation and looks forward to continued partnership for years to come.

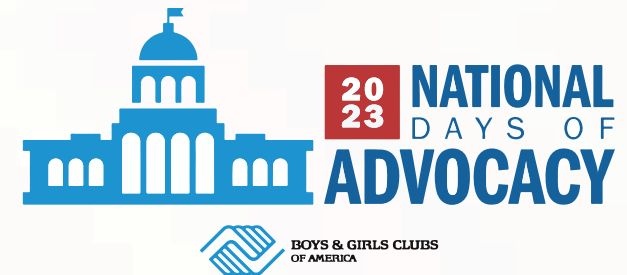
Amplifying Impact through Advocacy

BGCA Native Services works tirelessly to generate opportunities for Native Clubs to amplify their impact in Tribal communities at the local and national level. In 2023, Native Boys & Girls Clubs participated in BGCA's National Days of Advocacy and Native Week of Advocacy.

National Days of Advocacy

From February 27 to March 1, 2023, Native Club representatives convened in Washington, DC for BGCA's National Days of Advocacy. This event allows representatives from Boys & Girls Clubs across America to have their voices heard on issues facing today's youth. Native Club representatives joined hundreds of other advocates to highlight issues unique to Native youth and to offer constructive solutions. This was a valuable opportunity to share Club impact stories directly with members of Congress and to discuss critical policies impacting Native youth.

Native Clubs who participated in BGCA's National Days of Advocacy included **Akwesasne Boys & Girls Club; Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe; Boys & Girls Club of Chelsea; Boys & Girls Clubs of Border Towns; Boys & Girls Clubs of Generational Empowerment** and **Boys & Girls Club of Haliwa-Saponi Tribe**.



Native Week of Advocacy

Native Week of Advocacy was held from October 9-13, 2023. The week's events launched on Indigenous Peoples Day and offered a constructive and valuable avenue for advocacy for Native Boys & Girls Clubs with local access to leaders. During this week, Native Club staff engaged locally at all levels, including with Members of Congress who were in-state due to Congressional recess, Federal and state agency officials, state lawmakers, local and school officials and Tribal leaders. BGCA Native Services celebrates the work of Native Clubs to make certain the voice of Indigenous young people is heard at all levels of government.





Native Learning Events

Along with other benchmark achievements of the past year, 2023 saw the highly-anticipated return of BGCA Native Services' regional Native Learning Events. These events provide opportunities for youth development professionals to network, connect with the larger Native Club Movement and learn strategies and techniques to better serve the youth in their communities. These events were held throughout the year in five key regions:

Northeast/Southeast

Nashville, TN | April 19-20
Alabama, Maine, New York, Florida,
Mississippi, North Carolina,
South Carolina

PacWest/Southwest

Las Vegas, NV | September 20-21
New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, California,
Hawaii, American Samoa, Nevada

Southern Plains

Tulsa, OK | May 23-24
Oklahoma, Kansas

Northwest/Rockies

Coeur D'Alene, ID | September 27-28
Montana, Wyoming, Washington, Idaho,
Alaska, Oregon

Midwest

Mystic Lake Casino, MN | August 23-24
Michigan, Wisconsin, South Dakota,
Minnesota, North Dakota, Nebraska



At each of these locations, attendees – including Club staff and CEOs interested in learning more about youth development – benefited from a variety of learning and networking opportunities. Targeted training sessions were a key aspect of these events, with topics including youth safety, staff development, appropriate interactions with youth, providing structure and clear limits, increasing youth engagement, self-care tips and resources available from BGCA Native Services. The coveted Native Spirit Award, visits from Tribal leadership and scheduled evening networking events rounded out each Native Learning Event and helped make them an engaging experience for all involved.

Anna Bear, Director of Organizational Development at BGCA Native Services, observed the positive outcomes that resulted from these events. Bear explained, “It was a refreshing way to network with likeminded people doing the same work and to get inspired by the work being done at other Native Clubs. It was amazing to see the growth of participants after attending their regional Native Learning Event and to feel the sense of community they built in those two days.” The amplified connection of people, ideas and culture is central to our Movement and is why opportunities such as the regional Native Learning Events are so important.



Partner Spotlight



RED NOSE DAY

For over 9 years, Comic Relief US has held their signature Red Nose Day event, which has helped provide valuable support and nourishment for youth across the country. With its goal of investing in organizations that lift communities up from within, Comic Relief US raises money to change lives to build healthy futures for all children. This year's event was held on television on May 25th, 2023. The unmistakable red nose that marks this day represents one of the most heartwarming and successful fundraising initiatives of our time, a symbolic reminder that even the smallest things can make all the difference in the world.



The shared goals of the Red Nose Day initiative and BGCA Native Services have made for a successful, valuable and longstanding partnership. Over the years, Red Nose Day has provided services targeted toward the needs of Native communities, providing resources and funding for evidence-based and culturally relevant youth programming.

Furthering the shared mission of BGCA Native Services and Comic Relief US, the funds raised in 2023 allowed Native Clubs to amplify their impact by increasing the total number of youth benefiting from programs; expanding the quality and range of programs and opening new Native Clubs. This critical funding helped curb learning loss and expanded the reach of Native Clubs to provide crucial programming for those who need it most. BGCA Native Services sincerely appreciates the continued financial support that offers Native youth opportunities to learn and grow. Together, with Comic Relief US, we are strengthening our collective future by investing in Native youth today.

Partnering to Further Amplify our Impact

BGCA Native Services is appreciative for the continued dedication of our partners. It is through their generosity that we are able to provide meaningful programming and resources to thousands of Native youth each year.



Andra Rush

As an advocate and leader, Native Ambassador, Andra Rush has made a significant contribution to our endowment fund to ensure that Native youth are given opportunities to build strong futures.



American Indian College Fund

The American Indian College Fund, through its commitment with BGCA, has opened up scholarships exclusively for qualified Boys & Girls Club members to attend Tribal colleges and universities (TCUs) in the immediate proximity of their Club.



AmeriCorps VISTA

Through BGCA Native Services' partnership with the AmeriCorps VISTA, the VISTA project seeks to strengthen communities by aligning with the traditional Native practice of investing in young people. This project recruits young adults from Native communities to serve as VISTAs. Through the engagement of local Club alumni and other community members as VISTAs, this program creates opportunities for career readiness and educational attainment for Native youth.



The Boeing Company

Through BGCA Native Services' partnership with The Boeing Company, Boeing will provide sponsorship for the 2024 Native Summit. They will also provide program support and capacity building for both new and existing Native Clubs and provide employee community engagement in coordination with Boeing Native American Network (BNAN) employee leaders.



Bureau of Indian Education

A Memorandum of Agreement between BGCA Native Services and the Bureau of Indian Education allows collaboration to enrich the lives of Native youth. The goal of this partnership is to use the strengths and expertise of both organizations to enhance the educational well-being of Indigenous youth attending BIE funded schools and dormitories.



The California Endowment

The partnership with The California Endowment has supported Native Boys & Girls Clubs in California to attend trauma-informed trainings and increase access to experiences that can help achieve equity for Native youth. This partnership prioritizes creating stronger Native Club organizations, providing increased Club program quality and effective advocacy.



Gary Wendt

Through the investment from Boys & Girls Clubs in Indian Country Board Member, Gary Wendt, his gift supports the academic success pillar of BGCA's mission. In 2023, Gary served as the premier sponsor for BGCA's regional Native Learning Events, which provided opportunities for Club youth development professionals to network with others in their region and to learn strategies and techniques to better serve youth in their communities.



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.



Nike N7

Through the support of Nike N7, together we promote the "Power of Sports" and close the opportunity gap for Native young people. BGCA Native Services and local Clubs ensure success in school, work and life while reinforcing each community's cultural values and traditional ways. Together, we can equip Native Clubs to deliver transformational impact in their communities through the "Power of Sports".



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, guiding Native youth to develop 21st century skills and a clear vision of their future career goals.



Novo Foundation

Through this partnership, Novo and BGCA Native Services 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.



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.



Polaris

BGCA Native Services, in partnership with Polaris and others, work together to promote science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) to Native youth. This opportunity will ignite passion and motivate young people attending Boys & Girls Clubs on Native Lands.



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 has received proceeds from Red Nose Day, which will be used to build capacity and support increases in average daily attendance in Native Clubs.



San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

BGCA Native Services' partnership with the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians creates pathways to a better future through education for Native young people. The Tribe's investment supports 14 local Native Boys & Girls Clubs statewide in California, providing 1,400 youth with evidence-informed educational programming created from Native youths' unique cultural, social, environmental, emotional, intellectual and physical dimensions.



Starbucks

BGCA Native Services and Starbucks have teamed up to support the Trauma-Informed Network (Pathways to Healing) through a two-year partnership, to provide trauma-informed training to Native Boys & Girls Clubs and network-wide access to online trauma-informed curriculum to better serve Native youth.



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.



Yale University

The initial partnership between Native Boys & Girls Clubs and Yale University 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. The event reflects a budding partnership between Yale Child Study faculty and Boys & Girls Clubs of America's Native Services team which continues to evolve such as serving as subject matter experts for the Native Trauma-Informed Network (Pathways to Healing).

Future Ready for Collective Impact

Over the course of 2023, BGCA Native Services has continued to work with our Native Clubs and partners to expand and enrich our services for youth. Through this collaborative work we have been able to amplify our collective impact, helping to ensure that more Native youth have access to culturally relevant and enriching programming. As BGCA Native Services looks to 2024 and beyond, we stand future ready for collective impact, seeking to inspire and empower Native youth to achieve success by way of five strategic priorities:




ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTH – BGCA Native Services remains committed to planning and delivering strategic and customized trainings focused on resiliency and resource development for our Native Clubs – including this year’s diverse array of Executive Trainings.

TALENT – Our organization seeks to grow and diversify staffing at our Native Clubs, which will allow us to be able to effectively reach and develop relationships with Native youth in our communities.

YOUTH IMPACT – BGCA Native Services is dedicated to growing our footprint and expanding programming in order to positively impact a greater number of Native youth.

INFLUENCE – Giving voice to the needs of our Native youth is central to the mission of BGCA Native Services, whether that is through Congressional advocacy, engagement with Tribal Leaders or Ambassador recruitment. Our commitment to amplifying youth voice will allow us to expand our circle of influence on behalf of Native youth.

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION – As part of our future-forward approach, BGCA Native Services is committed to helping our Native Clubs build their online presence. This includes assistance with website design, the creation and management of social media channels, online donation drives and publicity campaigns.



With these five key strategic priorities propelling us forward, BGCA Native Services is excited about all that we can achieve with the help of our partners and the commitment of our Native Clubs. As we look future ready for collective impact, BGCA Native Services is committed to building upon our past achievements and establishing a sustainable foundation for Native youth for years to come.





BGCA NATIVE SERVICES

1275 Peachtree Street NE, Atlanta, GA 30309

Direct: (404) 487-5496 | **E-mail:** BGCANS@BGCA.ORG