



FALL 2021

**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB  
OF LAWRENCE**

# CLUB NEWS

## DELUCA DAY

William P. "Bill" DeLuca, Jr., Chairman of the Board of Directors and passionate advocate and contributor to the Boys & Girls Club for several decades, passed away July 28, 2021. Bill's leadership, commitment and philanthropic support for our organization were second to none, supporting the Club to be the thriving organization that it is today with its top-notch staff and facility. He stood with us through the good times and the bad times, always providing us with great advice and direction when important decisions had to be made. His dedication without a doubt made a huge difference in the lives of thousands of Lawrence's youth, and we are forever grateful for his boundless support.

Honoring what Bill and his family have done for the kids of Lawrence and to show our gratitude, we held our first DeLuca Day on September 28th. The day was filled with fun activities for our kids, capped off with a special performance from speed painter Rob Surette. At the end of the performance, a painting of Bill and his wife Kathleen was unveiled, which will be displayed at BGCL so our members can remember the importance of giving back to the community, just as Bill and his family have done.



## Message from our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

With the beginning of fall, we are trying hard to get back to more normal conditions here at the Club. Lawrence Public Schools have resumed in-person teaching, which allows us to become an after-school facility once again, operating 3-8 p.m., Monday through Friday and special programming on Saturdays.

While we are continuously monitoring the Covid-19 situation, we have increased our capacity for serving youth from 200 to 300 children per day for now. We reached that capacity level within only a few days after we reopened membership enrollment on September 1st. Members are able to select which programs they would like to participate in again, without staying in the same cohorts. Each child continues to receive their nightly dinner. Indeed, the need for our service is now greater than ever.

With your continued support, we will do everything in our power to get closer to pre-pandemic service levels, as long as we can keep the Club safe for our youth, staff and volunteers.

Sincerely,  
Markus Fischer

### For questions or comments, contact:

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# YOUTH LEARN TENNIS

We love trying new activities that will inspire our youth to stay healthy and to become educated so they can be productive citizens. When Spark Fitness in Andover approached us to start a tennis program, we were ecstatic to try something new to promote our kids' health and learning! Spark Fitness provided all of the supplies necessary to teach tennis, along with four volunteers. Throughout the summer, the four volunteers led classes three hours a day, twice a week. Each Club member had the opportunity to rotate through and participate. "I always thought tennis was boring until I had the opportunity to play at the Club. Now I love it so much, I asked if I could play through every rotation. It helps keep me active and healthy. The Club even gave me two tennis rackets and balls so that I could play in my neighborhood on weekends," says Tristan, age 12.



Spark Fitness began this partnership to give back to the community by inspiring kids to play tennis. Not only does tennis help with hand-eye coordination, it also promotes healthy lifestyles.

"Our mission is to introduce tennis to kids in Lawrence and provide an opportunity for them to learn and pursue a sport they might not otherwise have a chance to play. The kids at the Lawrence Club were awesome! They tried a new sport, had a positive attitude, and learned some new skills. We're so excited to continue this program through the school year as well," says Spark Fitness and Tennis Club Owner, Adam Molda.

## UPDATED GAMES ROOM



Equipment Refresher Brings Club Game Room into 21st Century. For many years, the Club has offered our members an engaging game room, filled with pool, bumper pool, air hockey, foosball and ping pong tables, but it was time for an upgrade. Our youth became tired of the same games; the tables became worn down with use; and staff wanted to increase physical activity in the games room.

We found a solution through Exergame Fitness, a company specializing in equipment that engages kids in interactive fitness using gamification and technology. We selected and installed five high-tech game room exercise stations, including a videogame station that only runs when kids are peddling a bike; a dance revolution; and interactive wall and floor games. "The pandemic increased childhood obesity rates across the country due to lack of physical fitness. When the kids saw the new games, their faces lit up! The games are constantly in use from open until close," says Markus Fischer, Executive Director.

# EVERSOURCE DAY

The Club seeks to partner with local organizations to help educate our youth on new and interesting industries. On “Eversource Day,” Eversource, a local energy efficiency company, volunteered 23 of their employees to coordinate informational sessions and activities for our youth. The activities included making bracelets out of solar beads, as well as a fun interactive game called “Wattsville”, which teaches students about energy efficiency and the importance of saving energy.

During the informational sessions, our youth learned about STEM careers in energy, clean energy solutions (Wind), and how to be more energy efficient. They participated in interactive activities that showed them how much energy it takes to turn on a regular light bulb versus LED light by pedaling on a bike. At the end of Eversource Day, every kid received a goody bag to bring home, including a selection of educational books.



Not only did Eversource provide our kids with an incredible day, but they also generously donated \$5,000 to help with BGCL operations!

## NEW STAFF AT BGCL

We are thrilled to welcome three new staff members into the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence Family! Amy Brown joins us from the Lawrence Public Schools where she worked for 17 years as a middle and high school teacher. Our new Assistant Director of Education, she will primarily work with our high school members on college and career preparedness. Amy can be reached at Amy.Brown@lawrencebgc.com or 978-683-2747, X141.



Suzanne Fischer, our new Volunteer Coordinator, has been part of the volunteer field for more than 30 years! “I’m so excited to be a part of the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence as a new staff member. It is so rewarding to work with kind-hearted individuals and to help make a difference in the lives of so many children,” says Suzanne. If you are interested in volunteering, she can be reached at Suzanne.Fischer@lawrencebgc.com or 978-683-2747, X117.

Through a grant from the Wellington Foundation, we have gratefully been able to add Mabel Vargas Social Worker, a new position for our team. We are particularly thrilled to have Mabel as we have aspired for several years to fund a staff social worker position to further support our kids and their families. “I can’t wait to build relationships with our Club’s youth and to provide family resources that will help change their lives for the better!” Mabel comments. Mabel’s contact is Mabel.Vargas@lawrencebgc.com or 978-683-2747, X137.



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