



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE**

January 28, 2019

Metro Government of Nashville and Davidson County
Department of Finance
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RE: Direct Appropriation Request

Dear Ms. Talia Lomax-O'dneal:

For 116 years, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Middle Tennessee (BGCMT) have been at the forefront of youth development, working with young people, ages 5-18, from disadvantaged economic, social, and family circumstances. During this time, hundreds of thousands of youth have benefitted from access to a broad range of programs, a safe place to go after school and in the summer, and our commitment to life changing outcomes—an impact that is felt throughout our community.

Last year, we requested an investment of \$68,500. We received \$29,900; this resulted in \$372,853 back to our community. The return is based on Damooei Global Research which shows that for every \$1 invested in Boys & Girls Clubs of Middle Tennessee, \$12.47 is returned to our community in current and future earnings and cost-savings. The greatest benefits are from Club members' improved grades and reduced alcohol use and their parents' earnings.

This year, due to wonderful growth for Nashville youth programming, we respectfully request a direct appropriation of **\$40,000**. The investment will ensure the following will occur:

- **High School Graduation**---Club kids graduate at a higher rate and earn more A's and B's than their peers
- **Healthy Lifestyles**---youth dedicate more time to daily exercise than their peers, cutting down on obesity and related healthcare costs
- **Teenage Pregnancy Prevention**---Club youth develop the knowledge and skills necessary to practice healthy lifestyle choices
- **Deterrence of Criminal Justice System Involvement**---Exposure to and supervision by positive adult role models along with programs that teach healthy decision making, Club youth are less likely than their peers to be violent, pick up a gun, or skip school
- **Substance Abuse Reduction**---Club teens are more likely to abstain from alcohol and marijuana than their peers
- **Parental Earnings**---Knowing they have a safe, affordable place for their kid(s), parents can pursue/keep employment

*Past Chairperson

Every year BGCMT spends \$3.5 million on operating costs for nine Club locations creating \$43,645,000 in economic benefits to youth, families, and the community. Through this investment, BGCMT actively seeks to enrich the lives of girls and boys whom other youth agencies have had difficulty reaching. We are dedicated to ensuring that our community's disadvantaged young people have greater access to quality programs and services that will enhance their lives and shape their future.

In addition to the above community outcomes, local youth will also benefit from the following:

- **Academic Success**---homework help, tutoring, educational enrichment, and college preparation programs designed to support young people's academic achievement and facilitate their success
- **Health and Wellness**---healthy snacks/meals, nutrition educational experiences, physical challenges, garden projects, recreational activities and sports leagues designed to teach youth how to live a healthy lifestyle in mind, body, and spirit
- **Job Readiness and Career Launch**---helping youth to identify their passion and preparing them for the workforce through hands-on training and Jr. Staff positions
- **Fun Enrichment Activities**---Clubs offer engaging, age-specific activities to encourage daily attendance including three state-of-the-art music studios which allow youth to explore, create, and record music while learning various career opportunities within the technology and music industries

Every youth who enters the doors of a Club receives immediate support from advocates who believe they can achieve great things regardless of their circumstances. This belief in youth stems from experience: time and time again, Club staff champion a young person who excels despite tremendous odds against them.

If granted, BGCMT will continue to utilize the requested funds to help assist with the occupancy costs associated with Club locations housed in Metro Nashville owned facilities: Andrew Jackson and Cleveland Park. In addition, the funds will provide scholarships to any child and/or teenager of need who desires to participate in our programs at no costs to them or their family. At present, BGCMT serves 4,389 youth throughout Nashville with a goal to reach an additional 5,000 by the end of 2019.

Thank you very much for the consideration of this Direct Appropriation request. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at your earliest convenience.

In Service to Youth,

Dan Jernigan

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