



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF ANNAPOLIS &  
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY



25 October, 2023

Dear Friend,

Growing up can be hard on a young person of any generation, but today's kids and teens are facing challenges such as learning gaps from the pandemic, school shootings, social pressures. In addition, during a time when the digital world plays a significant role in our lives, threats to mental health and emotional stability have multiplied. However, I remain optimistic. Responding to youth needs for social-emotional skill building and support is the cornerstone of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Annapolis & Anne Arundel County's (BGCAA) approach to youth development.

Over the past few years, BGCAA has been focused on integrating trauma informed practices. At our Clubs, kids and teens can rely on a safe, consistent, and welcoming environment where they can focus on what is most important – being a kid. Our members are taught the social-emotional skills they need to manage their emotions and nurture their resiliency. **Supporters like you help provide these environments.** We show our kids and teens their opinions, feelings, and perspectives matter. In our most recent survey, when asked, Club members responded:

- 96%** The Club provides a safe space for when I feel stressed out.
- 89%** Club staff help me understand my feelings.
- 92%** Club staff help me express my feelings.
- 96%** Club staff help me think of different ways to solve problems.
- 93%** Club staff help me ask for help when I am mad or upset.
- 93%** Club staff help me get through something when I am frustrated.



**With your support, together** we will build upon the positive impact expressed by the youth we serve while retaining and deepening their engagement. Knowing so many young people are unable to access after-school programming, we will also focus on expanding our reach and addressing the unmet demand for our services.

*Nelson Mandela stated, "I am fundamentally an optimist. Whether that comes from nature or nurture, I cannot say. Part of being optimistic is keeping one's head pointed toward the sun, one's feet moving forward."*

**To keep BGCAA moving forward, and providing all the club has to offer, I need YOUR support!**

Optimism is a powerful force that drives us to persevere, dream and achieve greatness. We see it in the eyes of the young people who come to our clubs, eager to learn, make new friends and explore their interests. Thank you for your unwavering support as together we continue to inspire each of them to dream big and build a **Great Future!**

With warm regards and boundless optimism,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa Lindsay-Mondoro".

Lisa Lindsay-Mondoro,  
CEO

**GREAT FUTURES  
START AT THE  
CLUBS**



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