For nearly six months, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston has continued to monitor the evolving situation with COVID-19. It has brought uncertainty and disruption to the communities we serve, but Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston’s (BGCGH) top priority has not changed: the health and safety of the children we serve.

Back-to-school looks different this year. With education gaps widening and vulnerable kids falling further behind, BGCGH has implemented Blue Learning Labs to support virtual learning, in addition to continuing crucial food assistance programs and virtual Club experiences. As school districts across the city reopen, we will continue to offer the traditional afterschool programs we are known for. We are committed to meeting the current challenges and the many more that lie ahead. We have a responsibility to our more than 26,000 kids, teens, families, and staff to ensure that we continue to help meet needs over the coming weeks and beyond.

We know that the need for a safe, consistent environment for our families and Club members is great. We continue to check-in with them to determine their needs. Through our programs, we will work to address pandemic learning losses, help our youth destress, and be a consistent resource for our community and families.
Back-to-School Programming

Blue Learning Labs
On August 17th, BGCGH opened their first Blue Learning Labs at three Clubs serving Fort Bend ISD to coincide with the district's start of virtual learning. Since then, the Blue Learning Labs have provided a safe and supportive environment during normal school hours for members that are enrolled in virtual school with no option to attend in-person classes. During this time, the Club transforms into a "lab" where members can attend virtual class, complete school assignments, and receive assistance from Club staff as needed. Members also receive meals while at the Clubs. Since opening, 925 meals have been served at the Labs, 95 youth have attended three or more days, and members have received 3,451 remote academic learning hours. Blue Labs opened at Clubs serving Spring Branch ISD and Galveston ISD on August 24th and will open at Clubs serving HISD on September 8th.

In-Person Club Experience (Traditional Afterschool)
In addition to Blue Learning Labs, BGCGH will also provide programs and activities in the Core Program areas that we are known for to our members. Staff will develop and foster healthy relationships with all members and families at the assigned club.

Virtual Programming
All Clubs currently offer virtual programming that focuses on BGCGH core program areas including academic success, healthy lifestyles, good character & citizenship, and workforce readiness. BGCGH serves an average of 217 youth per week via the virtual club experience. This virtual programming includes live taught programming via an online platform, as well as the utilization of the BGCGH OnDemand Club Experience videos. OnDemand Club Experience, launched on March 24th, is online programming that allows Club Members to view videos on various topics such as STEAM, the arts, literacy, fitness, character building and more. To date, there are a total of 49 videos with over 6,143 views on YouTube.

Family Wellness Check-ins
Club staff began checking in with Club families via phone calls, emails and texts the week of March 16th. These check-ins have continued over the last six months. Initial communications focused on the immediate needs of BGCGH families. More than 63,044 calls, texts and emails have been placed to continue to ensure BGCGH families are continuing to have their needs met.
Project Gives

BGCGH Project Gives is an outreach service to families who are in need of emergency food assistance. This assistance is provided through grocery gift cards from local grocery stores and through Hunger Not Impossible (HNI), a meal order app that allows families to pick up a meal at a participating restaurant free of charge. Families enrolled in HNI will receive 40 meals (up to 10 meals per day). To date, 239 members are registered for HNI and have received 4,895 meals. The week of June 29th, BGCGH began distributing $100 grocery store gift cards and have since given out 507.

Drive-thru Food Pantries

For nearly six months, BGCGH has conducted food pantries to serve both BGCGH families and the communities where Clubs operates. Over the past 23 weeks, we have provided over 64,742 meals to individuals across 10 locations and will continue to operate food pantries and grab-and-go sites until there is no longer a need. Additionally, 6,000 masks and 40 hot spots have been distributed.

Special Thanks

Thank you to all of our donors and community partners who support our work. Special thanks to those who have contributed to our relief efforts and made these programs possible including:

- Atkins P.A.T.H.
- Bank of America Charitable Foundation
- Best Buy
- BHP
- Boys & Girls Clubs of America
- Bradley Roby
- Capital One
- Caterpillar Foundation
- CenterPoint Energy
- Cigna Foundation
- Coca-Cola
- Comerica Charitable Foundation
- Consulate General of the State of Qatar
- The Daily News
- Deerbrook Charitable Foundation
- DPR
- Dreambuilders Foundation
- Emmanuel Ogbah
- The Enrico and Sandra DiPortanova Charitable Foundation
- First Horizon
- Fluor
- Galveston County Recovery Fund
- Geico
- The George Foundation
- Gibson Energy
- Greater Houston COVID-19 Recovery Fund Grant
- Gulf Coast Medical Foundation
- Harris & Eliza Kempner Fund
- H-E-B
- The Henderson Wessendorff Foundation
- Hevrdejs Foundation
- Hispanics in Philanthropy
- The Holthouse Foundation for Kids
- Houston in Action
- Houston Texans Foundation
- Kappa Kappa Gamma
- Kroger
- Maverick Natural Resources
- Major League Baseball
- Neiman Marcus
- SBA Communications
- Texas Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs
- Texas Center for Child and Family Studies
- T-Mobile USA Foundation
- The Powell Foundation
- Toyota
- Truist
- UnitedHealthcare
- Wells Fargo

In the News

Since March 2nd, BGCGH has been featured over 100 times about services we are providing to families or tips on how to help youth navigate the COVID Crisis. On June 29th, BGCGH was selected for the Houston Business Journal Business Impact Award, which recognizes companies that have taken extraordinary measure to assist their employees or community during the Covid-19 pandemic. Here are a few other headline highlights:

- March 23, Houston Chronicle: Talking to children about novel coronavirus
- April 1, The Katy News: Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston launches ON DEMAND Club Experience
- April 26, Cox Radio: BGCGH Response to COVID-19 featuring Kevin Hattery
- May 11, Stafford Municipal TV: Boys and Girls Club During the Crisis
- June 18, ABCI 1: Bun B, Justin Reid and Travis Johnson talk with teens about equality
- July 2, Houston Chronicle: Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston launches teen social justice initiative
- August 6, The Katy News: Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston collaborates in national, multi-city Teen Empowerment Town Hall to address social and racial justice in America
- August 19, Houston Public Media: HISD Interim Superintendent Dr. Grenita Lathan, The Week In Politics, And The Blue Learning Lab
- August 20, Houston Business Journal: Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston COVID-19 Impact