



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**  
OF THE HEARTLAND

# Annual Report



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB  
OF THE HEARTLAND**

Dear Friends,

We are deeply grateful to all our volunteers, stakeholders, board of directors, staff, and the community for supporting our mission and positively impacting the lives of families this year. Your dedication and generosity have enabled us to serve those most vulnerable and create a brighter future for thousands of young students.

Through your support, we expanded our Teen Center at First United Methodist Church and funded the Great Futures Program, which helped more teens throughout the Southeast Missouri area attend college at Three Rivers College. Additionally, your contributions allowed us to provide transportation to reach children in rural communities who need us the most.

At the Boys and Girls Club of the Heartland, we strive to help students aged 6-18 reach their full potential through youth development programs emphasizing career and academic achievement, healthy lifestyles, and leadership. For 24 years, we've played a critical role in the lives of our students, knowing that trusted adults and a safe after-school environment can transform a child's life.

Now, we are embarking on an \$12m Capital Campaign to build a 40,000-square-foot BGCHEART Workforce Development Regional Teen Center on the campus of Poplar Bluff High School and the Technical Career Center. This facility will serve as a beacon of hope for young people in Southeast Missouri, proclaiming that "Great Futures Start Here."

Our vision extends beyond providing meals; we aim to offer a hot and healthy meal to every member every day while providing nutrition and fitness education to instill healthy habits that last a lifetime.

The crises facing our youth are real, and your support is crucial. In Butler County, graduation rates, teen pregnancy, and poverty are pressing issues that we are determined to tackle head-on.

Let me share a story that illustrates the impact of our programs. Jeremiah, a 10-year-old 5th grader, faced hardships when his father went to prison. Struggling at school and blaming himself, Jeremiah found support and guidance through our Boys & Girls Club mentors and program staff. We will continue to be there for Jeremiah and countless other children in similar situations.

We believe in every child's potential for greatness, and with your investment in the Boys & Girls Clubs, you are changing the future for thousands of young people. Together, we can provide academic support, meals, and the foundation they need for a bright future.

Thank you once again for being an integral part of our journey. Your contributions make all the difference in the lives of these children, giving them hope and a chance at a better tomorrow.

With heartfelt gratitude,



Chris Rushin

Chief Executive Officer

Boys & Girls Club of the Heartland



Terri McCormick

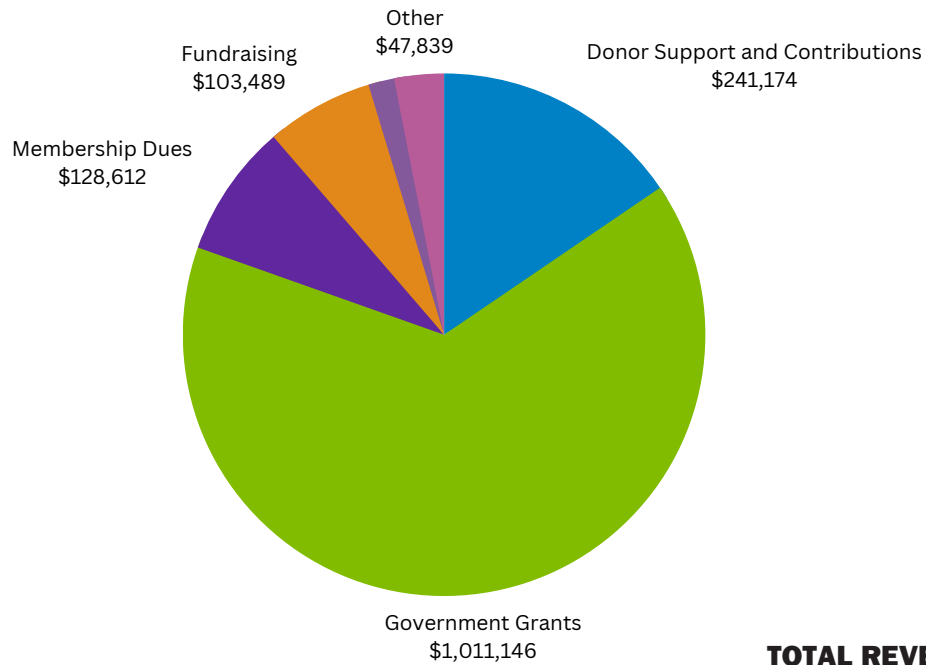
Director of Resource Development

Boys & Girls Club of the Heartland



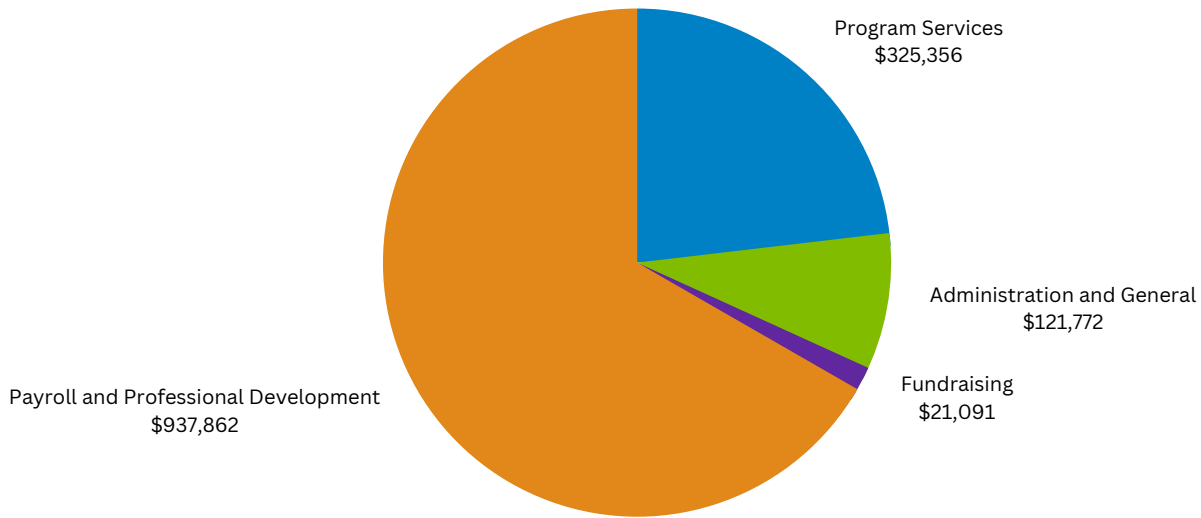
# Financial Statement

## FY22 OPERATING REVENUE BREAKOUT



**TOTAL REVENUE \$1,557,261**

## FY22 OPERATING EXPENSES BREAKOUT



**TOTAL EXPENSES \$1,406,082**

# 2023 Youth of the Year

## Harley Stilwell



Harley Stilwell has been a club member for 11 years and is in the 10th grade.

She enjoys drama club, choir, and volunteering. While at club, Harley participates in our Reading Buddies and Great Futures Programs. Harley stated, "Boys & Girls Club is a place where I can be myself with no resentment or ridicule. I'm just as much of a person as everyone else, and they show it". Harley's biggest strength is her perseverance to do what is right. Harley believes that family is chosen.



“

I am part of a big big family where I have been accepted like nowhere else, MY CLUB!

”



# Award Winning Programs

## Young at Heart

Boys & Girls Club of the Heartland is partnered with Poplar Bluff Housing Authority to help facilitate the Young at Heart program. This program started in February 2023 and consisted of Middle School and Teen Center members visiting the Twin Towers to play bingo with the housing residents once a month. There were only seven residents that participated the first month, but the word soon spread and the program quickly grew. At our May bingo day, we had over 35 residents participating. Each month the participation seems to be more than the month before.

Not all of the residents know how to read or cannot see well. This is where our members come in to help with bingo. When an item is called, our members help the residents find the item on their bingo card. There are several bonds being made between the youth and the residents. There's one resident in particular that is a great example of such a bond. This resident has no family, stay at their home with no visitors, and kept to themselves. The Ross Coordinator convinced this resident to attend bingo day. One of our Middle School Club Members sat with this resident, who was sitting by himself. Ever since the first day, this resident comes to play bingo specifically to visit this Boys & Girls Club member. Our youth are learning life skills and hearing amazing life stories from the residents while the residents are able to communicate with the younger generation. During the last month, we also have added a board game day where our members play popular board games with members. We are excited to watch this program continue to grow helping close the generational gap.



## Reading Buddies

Reading Buddies is a program that engages teens as they lead programs at our elementary units. Once a month teen members visit an elementary site where they get into small groups, read a book to a Power Hour room, and do an activity that is based on the subject of the book. In the past, we have completed books/activities over back to school, friendship, different seasons, and more. Some teens are so passionate about this program that they offer to help create the activities and/or choose the books they read.

The teen members who participate love to interact with the younger members acting as a mentor and role model to them. They also are very excited to go back to their elementary school to visit past club and school day staff. The younger members look up to the teens that visit and are excited when they come back each month.

The teen members often are unsure of what they want to do when they get older. We have had several teens, after participating in our Reading Buddies program, state that they want to be teachers or a child related career path.

## Mark Twain

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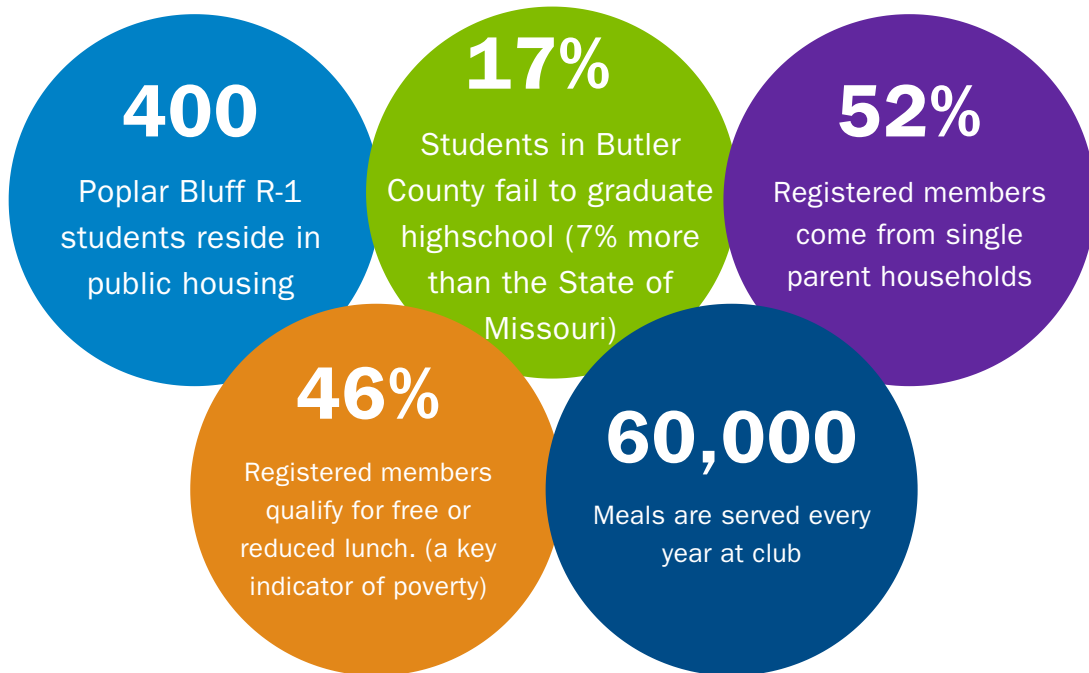
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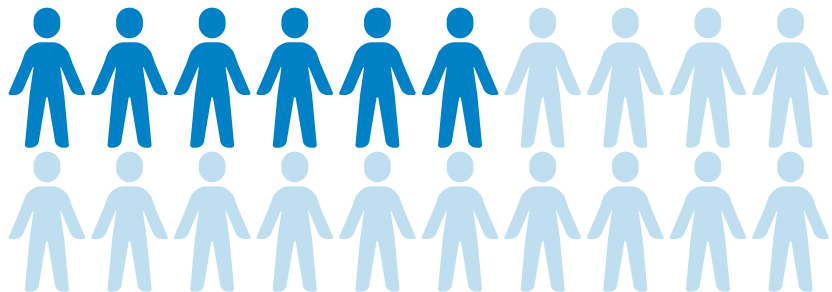


# The Need in Southeast Missouri

In Butler County, the rate of substantiated child abuse/neglect cases is more than three times that of the state ranking in the top 10 worst MO counties for child abuse. The rate of preventable hospitalizations for all causes is double that of the state, placing the county in the top 3 worst in the state. Children in Butler County enter and/or re-enter state Division of Family Services alternative custody at a rate nearly three times than that of children across the state.



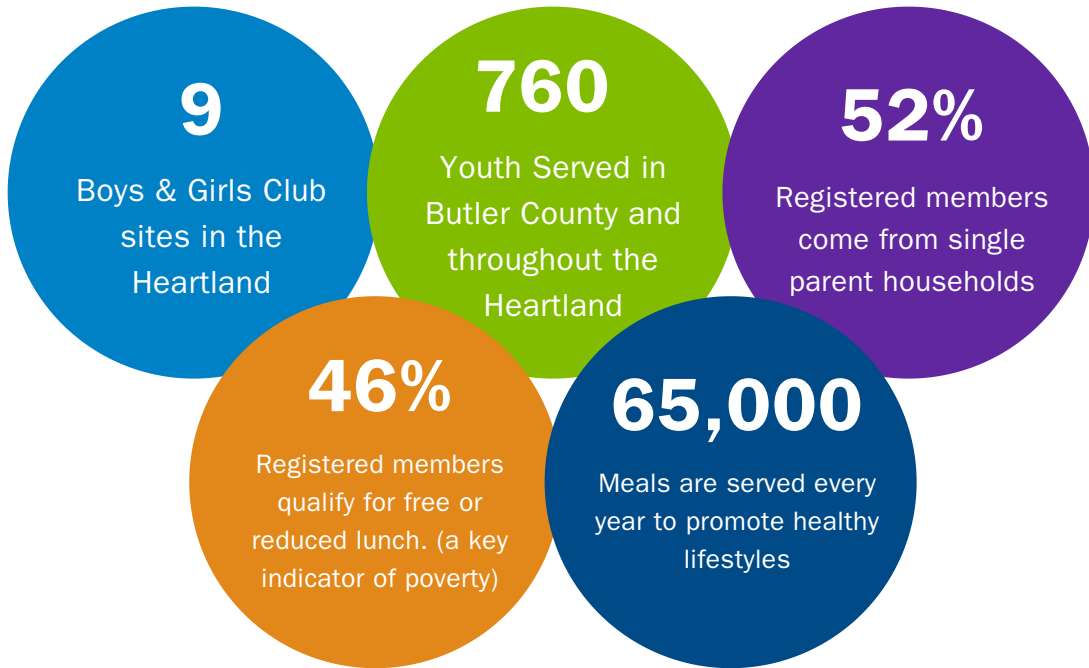
**113**  
**OUT OF**  
**115**



Butler County ranks 113 out of 115 counties in Missouri for overall child wellbeing: Poverty; Child Abuse; Neglect and Food Insecurity

# Our Reach

Boys & Girls Club's reach is vital within the Boys & Girls Clubs organization that aims to extend its impact to serve more young people in need. BGCHearst strives to reach deeper into communities, especially those facing challenges like poverty, limited resources, and lack of access to positive opportunities.





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