



Dear Club friends, families, donors, volunteers and partners:

During this time of the COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic, our mission still holds true – to provide care to kids and families in our community. In order to *fulfill our mission*, we need your help now to make that happen. I want to share with you the steps the Club is taking to best serve our community during these unprecedented times.

Many kids do not know where their next meal will come from as school is closed. **Many** parents do not have what they need to help their child with homework or provide the tutoring they need to succeed in this virtual learning environment. **Many** parents do not have a place for their child to go while they continue working as essential personnel during this crisis – nurses, lab techs, first responders, etc.

Here is what we are doing to help:

--> We are doing what is necessary to ensure that Club families in the wider Crestmont Community have **access to food**. Most of our efforts have centered on partnering with existing food agencies/providers and delivering food to our Club families.

--> Program Staff in all three Clubs are delivering **virtual programming** via the **BGCB | Virtual Club** that is being shared with all Boys & Girls Clubs of Bloomington youth who have the capacity to receive the programming online. This programming is also open to the entire community. To join, please visit: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/BGCBVirtual>.

--> Program Staff at all three Clubs have **personally reached out to Club youth and families**, especially those who need us most, with direct phone calls. Staff have shared our concern for their well-being and asked how we could help them.

--> We are looking at how we can **provide in-person programming** to families with essential workers (nurses, lab techs, first responders, key grocery personnel, etc.). We plan to roll out this service soon in collaboration with, and with direction from, local public health authorities.

--> We convened an **organizational Task Force** of BGCB Board members and Club Staff that phone-conference daily to tackle the tough questions and challenges of the day.

Many known and unknown challenges lie ahead.

Even though we have **lost a large percentage of our staff** due to Indiana University's closing, our remaining Professional Staff are up to the challenge. While we have also had to **postpone key fundraising campaigns and events**, our Resource Development staff are working tirelessly to develop innovative ways to supply our organization with the fuel it needs. We forge ahead with all of you as we collectively take on the challenges of today so that our kids have the opportunities they deserve tomorrow.

These are hard times for us all - but in hard times, we have an opportunity to provide hope, support and help to those in need. **We are asking you to please join us, if you are able, by sending in an urgent gift today**. Please go online to bgcbloomington.org/donate or send a check to *P.O. Box 1716, Bloomington, IN 47402* so we can ensure every child that needs it receives healthy meals, access to virtual and/or limited in-person programming, and the critical supplies their family may need.

Your action is needed now. This is not the time for our community's youth to fall behind. Your gift keeps kids on the path to success – fed, educated, and safe.

If you need assistance, we are here to help you. Please reach out to Leslie at labshier@bgcbloomington.org and let us know how we can support you during this time.

With gratitude,

Jeff Baldwin

Executive Director, Boys & Girls Clubs of Bloomington