



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF AMERICA

NATIVE SERVICES



THRIVE in 2021

ONE MISSION uniting us together as ONE

Annual Report | 2021

THRIVE IN 2021

In 2021, BGCA Native Services prioritized fostering impactful change in the lives of Native youth, uniting Native Clubs in the shared mission to enable Club youth to reach their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible citizens. “ONE mission uniting us together as ONE” was the driving factor for Native Clubs as they worked together to meet this shared goal. Through this united, mission-driven mindset, they were able to not only survive, but THRIVE in 2021. While many Native Clubs continued virtual and hybrid programming this year, we also saw a transition back to more traditional in-person programming.

Native Clubs embodied the resilient and goal-oriented spirit that defined 2021, rising to meet any obstacle placed in front of them. The fact that Native Clubs were still able to successfully continue serving youth, despite the ongoing challenges posed by the pandemic, shows what can be achieved through commitment to a unified goal.

BGCA Native Services displayed this commitment on a national level by continuing to support Native Clubs, providing resources and trainings to reaffirm the shared mission. BGCA Native Services facilitated many virtual events that provided the opportunity for Clubs from different regions to engage with one another and share knowledge and experiences. Through these collective opportunities, BGCA Native Services helped Native Clubs remain connected to one another and provide more impactful services to the youth in their communities.

Native Clubs have been able to continue improving the lives of youth over the past year, as shown by the many success stories in this report. BGCA Native Services is proud to celebrate these achievements, and to recognize the thriving community that has helped make 2021 such a successful year for Native Clubs.

ONE MISSION

uniting us **together** as

ONE

LETTER FROM THE NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT OF NATIVE SERVICES

As we reach the end of 2021, I am again reminded of the many reasons BGCA Native Services has to be thankful for the dedication of Club leadership, staff and volunteers at Native Clubs. We would not be able to further our mission without the contributions of these individuals. I am also inspired by the Native youth that we serve, as their resiliency and perseverance are reflected in many of the stories that follow.

As we look forward, there are many reasons for optimism. At this time last year, we were still dealing with the most severe impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of us were still on lock-down and in-person programming was limited. In 2021, we have witnessed many Clubs reopen as vaccines have been distributed throughout our communities, and youth have been reunited with staff who continue providing opportunities for growth in a nurturing and supportive environment. At the same time, we must remember that not all communities have fully rebounded. Many families are still facing financial hardships and dealing with the loss of loved ones. That's why it is so important that we continue to work together in our mission to enable Native youth to thrive and prosper.

Next year marks the 30th anniversary of Boys & Girls Clubs on Native Lands and our organization has never been stronger! We have continued to grow and have welcomed new Clubs into our family. Our existing Clubs have also expanded to serve additional Native youth. This unprecedented growth fills me with great joy and hope as we move forward into 2022. On behalf of BGCA Native Services, I would like to recognize and celebrate the impact of the Club staff, Tribal leaders, partners, and donors that support Native Clubs. I look forward to celebrating this important milestone in 2022 and I am excited about what we can achieve together in the years to come!



Woliwoni,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carla Knapp".

Carla Knapp
National Vice President, Native Services
Boys & Girls Clubs of America

LETTER FROM PRESIDENT AND CEO

Boys & Girls Clubs of America is honored to serve more Native children and teens than any youth development organization. Since 1992, Boys & Girls Clubs on Native Lands have been providing Native youth with programming and activities to develop life skills supporting current and long-term success.

Today, over 200 Boys & Girls Clubs around the country are serving youth of American Indian, Alaska Native, American Samoan and Hawaiian Tribal communities. Thousands more Native children and teens are participating in Club programming that reinforces their cultural identity while promoting workforce development, healthy lifestyles, academic excellence and other learning areas.

Clubs celebrate Native communities, recognize their distinct strengths and encourage Native youth to be resilient, live healthy and always aim for success. BGCA adapts and modifies our national programs to integrate Native culture and will continue advocating for Native youth and the sustainable expansion of Native Clubs.

Finally, my deep gratitude and regards to the staff and volunteers who keep Native Clubs open and running. Throughout 2021 and beyond, your dedicated service and resilience has been inspiring. Despite challenges caused by the ongoing pandemic, Native Clubs safely served and supported Native youth to keep learning, growing and developing a vision of future success.

Please read on to learn more of our accomplishments in 2021 and long-term vision for Native Clubs. Thank you for your support of BGCA Native Services.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James L. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James L. Clark
President and CEO
Boys & Girls Clubs of America



MISSION

To enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring and responsible citizens.



VISION

Strengthening Native youth's cultural identity through programming that explicitly promotes positive youth growth and development along critical cultural, social, emotional, intellectual, and physical dimensions through viable and sustainable organizations.

CORE BELIEFS

A Boys & Girls Club Provides:

- A safe place to learn and grow
- Ongoing relationships with caring adult professionals
- Life-enhancing programs and character development experiences
- Hope and opportunity

NATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Native Advisory Committee is to provide input and insight on the needs and strengths of Native Boys & Girls Clubs organizations across the Nation that will help establish and refine Boys & Girls Clubs of America's systems and methods that are culturally relevant to assure the greatest benefit possible for Native organizations.



ARIZONA

Adam Ortiz
*Boys & Girls Clubs
of Tucson*

HAWAII

Claudia 'Lala' Fernandez
Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii

KANSAS

Nathan Hale
*Boys & Girls Club of the Prairie
Band Potawatomi Nation*

MAINE

Fenton Jones
*Boys & Girls Clubs of
Border Towns*

MICHIGAN

Sandra Walden
Boys & Girls Club of Bay Mills

MINNESOTA

Thomas C. Barrett
*Red Lake Nation
Boys & Girls Club*

Terri Darco
*Boys & Girls Club of
White Earth Reservation*

NEW MEXICO

Wendolyn Murphy
*Mescalero Apache
Boys & Girls Club*

Jolene Vigil
*Pueblo of Pojoaque
Boys & Girls Club*

NEW YORK

Jessica Cree Jock
*Akwesasne Boys &
Girls Club*

OKLAHOMA

Lindsey Harris
Boys & Girls Club of Chelsea

SOUTH DAKOTA

Glen Marshall
Boys & Girls Club of Rosebud

WISCONSIN

Ron Corn
Woodland Boys & Girls Club

Heather Peterson
*Boys & Girls Club of the
Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe Band*

BGCIC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Boys & Girls Clubs in Indian Country Board of Directors, comprised of BGCA National Staff and leaders from partner organizations, seeks to advocate for all Clubs on Native Lands. Advocacy takes place through fundraising, partnership building and communicating with local Clubs and Tribal agencies.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dan Lewis

President & CEO
Native Insight, LLC

John Underwood

Managing Director
Goldman Sachs & Co.

Carla Knapp

National Vice President, Native Services
Boys & Girls Clubs of America

Kelly Concho-Hayes

*Lead Director of Organizational
Development*
Boys & Girls Clubs of America

Lorraine Orr

Chief Operations Officer
Boys & Girls Clubs of America

Andra Rush

Chief Executive Officer
Rush Trucking

Kristine Morain

Legal Advisor
Boys & Girls Clubs of America

Valerie Red-Horse Mohl

Chief Financial Officer
East Bay Community Foundation

Gary Wendt

Retired
Capital Management



THRIVING THROUGH ADVERSITY

As COVID-19 challenges persisted throughout 2021, Club staff showed continued resilience and perseverance in order to support the communities they serve. Native Clubs continue to provide critical services to youth and families including academic support, culturally relevant skills-development programming, as well as daily meals and snacks.



63,000+ YOUTH SERVED

IN 2021, NATIVE CLUBS PROVIDED:



935,000+ MEALS TO YOUTH



875,000+ SNACKS TO YOUTH



1.3 MILLION+ MEALS AND SNACKS TO FAMILIES

NATIVE CLUB YOUTH



94% EXPECT TO GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL



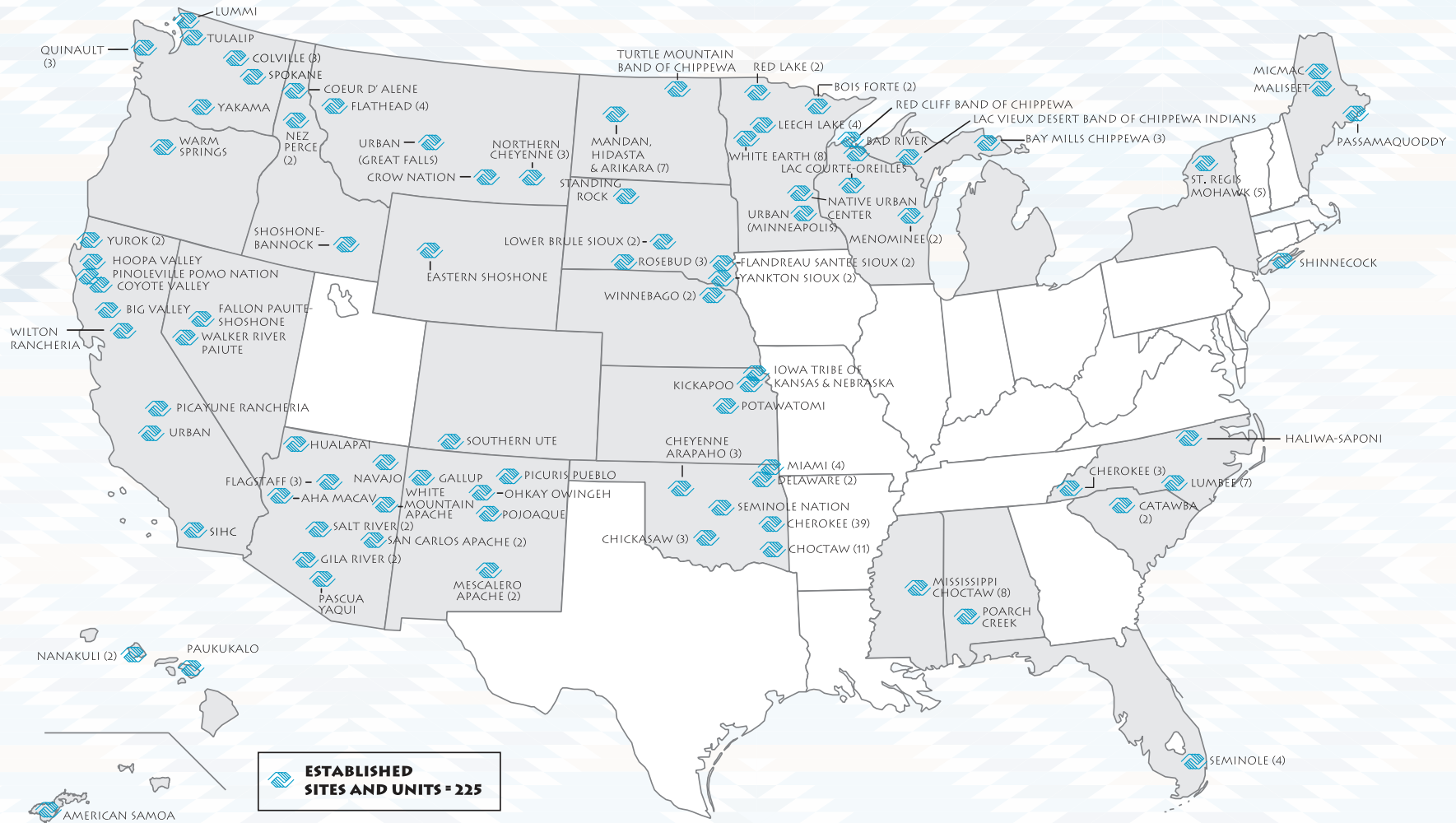
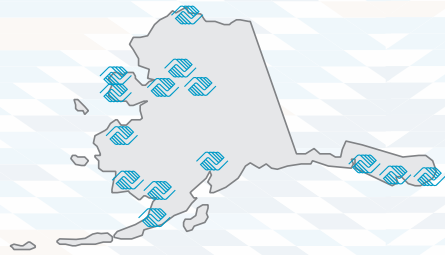
92% TRY TO HELP OTHERS IN NEED



94% HAVE SKILLS TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN A JOB

2021 NATIVE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

LIST OF CLUBS IN ALASKA:	
BARROW	NOORVIK
BREVIG MISSION	SAND POINT
KAKE	SAXMAN
KLAWOCK	SELAWIK
KOTZEBUE	ST. MARY'S
NAKNEK	TOGIAK
NOME	TYONEK



THE IMPACT OF NATIVE CLUBS:

Red Lake Nation Boys & Girls Club

Culturally appropriate programming is integral to the success of Native Boys & Girls Clubs. Learning about our heritage and traditional ways of life can inspire Native youth to take charge of their futures and become leaders in their community. In 2021, **Red Lake Nation Boys & Girls Club** provided a great example of infusing culture into programming by creating a music video titled, “I’m Anishinaabe.” In the Ojibwe language, “Anishinaabe” is the word for “human being.” Red Lake Nation Boys & Girls Club CEO, Thomas Barrett, Jr., explains the tribute behind the song, “The song speaks to having pride in our culture as the Anishinaabe people, but also to the idea that we, too, are human beings, just as you are a human being, no matter what your heritage.”



Barrett authored the song and performs the lyrics alongside Red Lake Nation Club members. Images play on the screen of traditional Indigenous clothing and dance combined with rap lyrics demonstrating the unique balance of what it means to be a Native youth in the 21st century. The amazing footage was captured using a drone operated by members of their technology club. Barrett emphasizes the importance of what he has termed “**Walking in Two Worlds.**” In other words, we must recognize the need to provide youth with the tools necessary to succeed in the modern world, such as graduating from high school, attaining a college degree, getting a job, and saving for the future. At the same time, Native youth should also be given opportunities to reconnect with their culture and celebrate what makes them unique.

Tribal culture is incorporated into Club programming through big drum singing lessons, music and offering Native language tables and words of the week so Club members can learn their Native language. Barrett says, “Our Club staff knows to take what we have as youth development professionals and as members of this community and empower our kids.” Barrett finds great satisfaction in seeing more Native youth start to participate in and recognize the value of their culture. For many, these connections to their heritage can create a ripple effect toward an increased respect for tribal Elders, traditional ways of life and an increased likelihood of becoming the future leaders of the community. As Barrett explains, there is no one way to describe Indigenous people or today’s Indigenous youth, “We are more alike than we are different. We are all just simply human.”

PROGRAMS WITH NATIVE ADAPTATIONS

Honoring Tribal culture is a core component of youth programming at Native Boys & Girls Clubs. By combining Native history and modern traditions, youth are able to connect with their heritage in a way that remains relevant and engaging. These principles are woven into Club programming at every opportunity in order to fulfill the inspiring organizational goals of the BGCA Great Futures 2025 initiative. Each year BGCA Native Services helps ensure that the programs on offer at Boys & Girls Clubs remain rooted in the cultural realities of Native youth and take into account the latest evidence-based research and best practices. In 2021, BGCA Native Services continued to promote culturally relevant and innovative programming at the local level to allow Native youth to achieve their goals.

BE THERE

The Be There initiative supports Clubs in creating a high-quality Club Experience for all youth by investing in building a safe, positive environment, establishing supportive relationships and creating a sense of belonging. Be There is a comprehensive approach to help Clubs and BGCA-affiliated youth centers integrate best practices in supporting youth experiencing bereavement and other major life-altering losses. We not only want to help youth process through their grief, but we also want to include resilience development as part of the long-term approach in preparing our youth to reach their full potential. Be There provides trainings, resources and strategies that help Clubs increase their capacity to support youth, staff and families who are grieving. The strategies that are offered in this toolkit are meant to support Clubs in building strong, supportive relationships among youth, staff, families and the community. Grief is an all too familiar experience for many of the young people we serve. While the challenges that Native communities face are great, the resiliency of those Native communities is even greater. The decades of superior youth development, advocacy and support that Native Services provides is inextricably linked to that resiliency even as it serves to reinforce it.



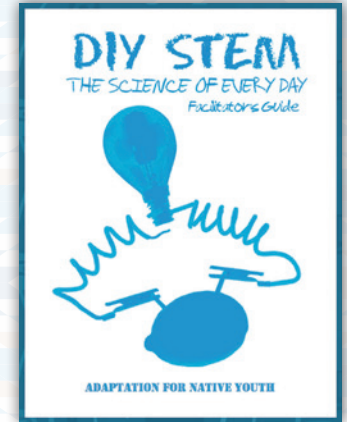
DIPLOMAS TO DEGREES

Diplomas to Degrees (d2D) is a college readiness program that guides Club members as they work toward high school graduation and prepare for post-secondary education and career success. The culturally-adapted version of this curriculum assists teens to develop both short- and long-term goals, while familiarizing them with post-secondary education opportunities through experiences like college tours. The d2D program also assists youth in securing financial aid and fosters supportive, culturally relevant relationships with adults who can provide support throughout the college experience.



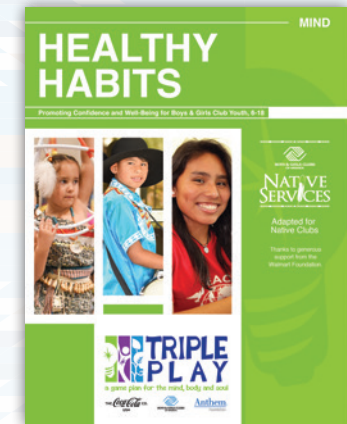
DIY STEM

Do It Yourself (or DIY) STEM is an activity-based program that brings scientific principles to life. The program uses items commonly found in the Club or that can be easily procured to introduce Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematical (STEM) concepts to youth. DIY STEM is a program that can be implemented in its entirety or as separate units depending on the needs and interests of various Club kids. The program and curriculum requires youth to think deeply so they can build skills to become the professionals, builders, researchers, educators and leaders of the future as Club staff guide them to explore STEM-related concepts. DIY STEM's Native-adapted curriculum brings crucial anecdotes relating these curriculum units to the Club members' cultural realities – infusing STEM and indigenous cultural concepts into one integrated program.



HEALTHY HABITS

Designed to incorporate healthy living and active learning into every part of the Club Experience, Healthy Habits emphasizes the importance of acknowledging the relations and interconnectivity of good nutrition, regular physical activity and mental fitness for improving overall well-being. The program, for ages 6 to 18, is the Mind component of Triple Play: A Game Plan for the Mind, Body and Soul and encourages the adoption of specific routines and everyday practices in order to align one's life with overarching wellness. BGCA Native Services has reviewed the Healthy Habits curriculum to provide Native Clubs with an adaptation of the curriculum that is more reflective of Native cultural beliefs and understandings of the holistic nature of health and well-being.



MY.FUTURE

My.Future Digital Essentials is an online curriculum created by BGCA to give youth the technology skills they need to thrive in today's digital world. Through personalized and engaging hands-on experiences, My.Future teaches youth valuable digital skills. My.Future Digital Essentials helps youth understand their media world, identify and develop digital interests and earn certifications as they make progress. Through a partnership between BGCA Native Services and Verizon, the curriculum was reviewed to provide Native Clubs with an adaptation that is more reflective of Native cultures. The adaptation was designed to give Clubs the ability to create their own activities and to encourage students to explore their cultural heritage while increasing their digital literacy.



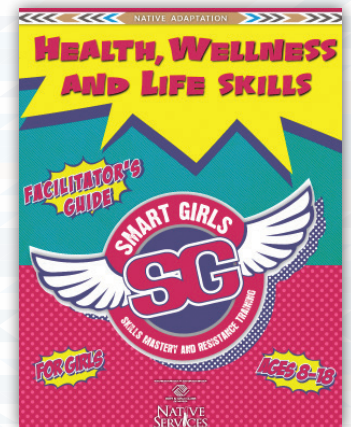
ON THE T.R.A.I.L. TO DIABETES PREVENTION

In 2003, BGCA, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), IHS and Nike, Inc., initiated a prevention program aimed at reducing the onset of type 2 diabetes among Native youth. The program – On the T.R.A.I.L. (Together Raising Awareness for Indian Life) to Diabetes Prevention – is an innovative combination of physical, educational and nutritional activities that align with ideas of holistic wellness within many Native communities. T.R.A.I.L. is comprised of a 12-chapter curriculum program that provides Native youth with a comprehensive understanding of healthy lifestyles in order to prevent diabetes and attain emotional, mental, physical and spiritual balance. An evidence-based approach is woven throughout the program – a principle that BGCA has always centered in its approach to youth development. Programs draw from Tribal traditions and history to learn about nutrition, food choices, media influences and the impact of diabetes. FirstPic, Inc. has partnered with BGCA on this program from its onset and assisted in its successful implementation in over 50 Native communities nationwide.



SMART GIRLS

SMART Girls is one of Boys & Girls Clubs of America's top programs. It is taught year-round at Clubs across the country, reaching girls ages 8 to 18. Its targeted curriculum ensures girls get the right information and the support at the right time. Separate modules are specially tailored to three distinct age groups: 8 to 10, 11 to 13 and 14 to 18. The interactive, engaging, small-group sessions engender camaraderie, while also encouraging each girl to explore and express her individuality through discussions, hands-on games and activities, role-play, take-home activities and collaborative decision-making and problem-solving. The SMART Girls Native Adaption aims to assist Club staff in tailoring the program to be culturally relevant and responsive to the unique strengths and needs of Native girls in their Club. Many indigenous scholars have found that promoting positive youth development among Native youth demands a holistic approach to program design that incorporates key wellbeing vital to their culture.



For the full list of adapted programs, please visit [NAClubs.org](https://www.naclubs.org).

PARTNER HIGHLIGHT: BOEING

As an organization, Boeing is dedicated to promoting inclusion and diversity within their workforce and the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) field. Boeing is a longtime supporter of Boys & Girls Clubs and believes in the importance of inspiring young people, especially Native youth, in STEM subjects. Contributions to BGCA Native Services include expanding access to the Boeing DreamLearners initiative, a program that offers opportunities for Native youth to tour Boeing facilities and to learn about careers in STEM, internships for Native Club members and general capacity building initiatives.



In 2021, Boeing generously provided sponsorship for and supported the Native Youth STEM Event, a one-day virtual event facilitated by BGCA Native Services, which was designed to expose Native Club youth to careers and opportunities in the STEM field.

Boeing Native American Network (BNAN) employees presented a variety of STEM career opportunities and spoke with Club participants about their own journeys as Native people working in the industry. In addition, Boeing will assist with program support and capacity building to both new and existing Native Clubs, along with community engagement from BNAN employee leaders. BGCA Native Services thanks Boeing and BNAN employees for their service and contributions to Native youth. The strength of our partnership is essential as we strive to provide Native youth with the opportunities they need to thrive in STEM fields.

EXECUTIVE TRAININGS

BGCA Native Services aims to ensure that Club staff and leadership are continuously provided with opportunities for professional growth and advancement. In support of the organization-wide goal to Thrive in 2021, Native Club staff participated in a variety of virtual trainings including a Resiliency Conference; Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Practitioners Summit; 1-Day Native Track at BGCA National Conference and a Thrive and Sustain Virtual Webinar Series. Through these events, Native Club leaders received a wealth of information on methods to motivate and inspire their youth.

NATIVE RESILIENCY CONFERENCE

BGCA Native Services facilitated their second annual virtual Native Resiliency Conference in November 2021. Conducted in collaboration with the Yale Child Study Center, this year's conference explored the importance of trauma-informed practices (including safety, trust, awareness, and equity), and how to best integrate these practices into Club programming. Over the course of the three-day conference, Club leaders were able to participate in a wide variety of interactive sessions. Presenters covered topics such as self-care, secondary trauma, compassion fatigue, the importance of connecting to indigenous heritage, and the positive impacts that a research-based and cultural-informed approach can have on Native Clubs. Participants had the opportunity to engage in discussion and learn from one another, making for an experience that was enriching and informative for all.



**YALE CHILD
STUDY CENTER**

1-DAY NATIVE TRACK AT BGCA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

In the spring of 2021, Club leaders were given the opportunity to attend the virtual 1-Day Native Track at BGCA National Conference facilitated by BGCA Native Services. The session focused on creating pathways to healing through the 7 Key Elements of a Trauma-Informed Club. Participants learned about the effects of trauma, levels of engagement, culturally relevant tools, what it takes to become a trauma-informed organization and the social-emotional factors associated with wellbeing. Club professionals were able to interact virtually and develop fresh ideas on how they can prioritize the mental health of those they serve through culturally relevant support, and utilize relationships to build the resiliency needed for Native youth to thrive.



THRIVE AND SUSTAIN WEBINAR SERIES

BGCA Native Services held a Thrive and Sustain Webinar Series designed to facilitate Native Clubs' continued capacity building during 2021. These webinars were led by BGCA Native Services and were carefully curated to cover a variety of topics vital to the success of Clubs serving Native youth. Topics included Federal funding and business development, becoming a trauma-informed organization, and youth safety and wellbeing. As community ties are crucial to the success of Boys & Girls Clubs on Native Lands, the webinar series also allowed participating Clubs to network and create support systems with other Native Clubs. Through their participation in the Thrive and Sustain Webinar Series, CEOs of Native Boys & Girls Clubs remain committed to building the knowledge and skills needed to maximize the impact of their Clubs on the Native youth they serve. These webinars also offered an opportunity for youth development professionals to collectively share ideas that could be brought back to staff members to implement in Native Clubs.

Thrive *and* Sustain ◀◀◀ Webinar Series ▶▶▶

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION (DEI) PRACTITIONERS SUMMIT

In 2021, BGCA Native Services participated in the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Practitioners Summit, a biannual consortium to share diversity, equity and inclusion best practices. The first DEI Practitioners Summit, held June 8-9, 2021, provided BGCA Native Services with an opportunity to facilitate a session for youth practitioners. BGCA Native Services shared a Native perspective on how to promote the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion within the community. In addition, the issue of historical trauma was discussed and continued Indigenous resiliency was celebrated.

The second DEI Practitioners Summit, held October 5-6, 2021, included the Blue Diamond Moment interview between Carla Knapp, National Vice President of BGCA Native Services and BGCIC Board Member and Ambassador, Andra Rush. The interview celebrated Ms. Rush's inspiring journey and the challenges she faced along the way – from earning a bachelor's degree in Nursing to running the largest Native owned business in the United States as the Founder, Chair and CEO of the Rush Group of Companies. The Summit also featured Directors of Organizational Development from BGCA Native Services who presented on the importance of creating awareness of people's differences and educated participants on equity for Native people.



PARTNER HIGHLIGHT: WALMART FOUNDATION

The Walmart Foundation is dedicated to creating opportunities for people to live better and to build resiliency within the communities they serve. In 2021, through their partnership with BGCA Native Services, the Walmart Foundation has continued to provide support for the unique needs of Native youth. The Walmart Foundation's generosity this past year will allow for five new Native Clubs to engage in food provision services.



In doubling their gift from previous years, The Walmart Foundation was able to impact the lives of youth at 45 Native Clubs by providing funding to ensure members had secure food access.

The Walmart Foundation has maintained a strong relationship with BGCA Native Services to ensure consistent outcomes regarding the number of meals served and Native youth impacted. All of the Clubs served by this gift will now be able to provide all members guaranteed access to meals a minimum of three days per week through on-site programs, food pick-up or direct delivery. Their support also assists BGCA Native Services in the collection of best practices from exemplary Native Clubs using efficient, successful approaches to deliver nutritious meals to their communities. This will allow other Clubs to follow these examples to close the food insecurity gap. Native communities often have high rates of both type 2 diabetes and food insecurity, and this gift from The Walmart Foundation to provide reliable and nutritious food access is of immeasurable value for the youth and communities it will impact. BGCA Native Services looks forward to continued partnership with The Walmart Foundation for years to come.




 BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
 OF CATAWBA NATION

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 "Tree House"
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THE IMPACT OF NATIVE CLUBS:

Boys & Girls Club of the Northern Cheyenne Nation

The resiliency and sense of community displayed by Native Boys & Girls Clubs has allowed youth and their families to remain empowered and supported throughout any challenges they may face. At **Boys & Girls Club of the Northern Cheyenne Nation**, staff have worked tirelessly over the past year to alleviate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as wildfires that affected their area.

To support families during COVID-19, the Club organized a weekly drive-through for community members where food/hygiene boxes and snack bags were distributed to families in need from all five surrounding reservation districts. More than 30,000 boxes and bags have been distributed, as well as 15,000 cases of water. Items such as masks, sanitizer, wipes and toilet paper were included in these boxes to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. In order to fund this effort, Club staff partnered with their Tribal government to provide supplies being distributed to the community. The Housing Department of the Northern Cheyenne Nation helped the Club with this effort by providing housing for people to quarantine properly to protect the community from exposure.


If COVID-19 was not enough of a challenge, the state of Montana also experienced severe wildfires during 2021. As the Richard Springs Fire reached Lame Deer, Montana, many people were in need of emergency supplies and resources. The Club proudly served as an emergency shelter for the American Red Cross and U.S. National Guard. With no electricity for 7 days, Club staff collaborated with another local non-profits to organize a fundraising effort to purchase generators. As food in the home refrigerators of local families expired, the Club became a hub for essential needs such as water and air purifiers. Club staff attribute their ability to fulfill these services largely to their donors who were incredibly supportive and helped to supply the Club with items to distribute. Donors for these efforts included local non-profits, community members and the Tribal government of the Northern Cheyenne Nation.

BGCA Native Services commends the commitment of Club staff and leadership, along with the contributions of volunteers and donors, as they have helped guide Native youth and their families safely through the past year.




ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

BGCA Native Services has continued to grow in a sustainable and streamlined way in the past year. Our focus on capacity-building and diverse programming options have allowed our Clubs to thrive and provide essential services to Native youth and their families. We have also continued to expand our reach into more Native communities.



“ The resilience of Native Clubs has been evident in the past year as we have continued to grow our footprint and reach more youth than ever, despite obstacles we have faced due to the continuing pandemic. As we look forward to celebrating our 30th anniversary in 2022, I am confident this resilience and adaptability will continue to shine through as we work together to provide great futures for Native youth! ”

– Carla Knapp, National Vice President, BGCA Native Services



Despite the continued challenges from COVID-19 faced by many youth-serving organizations in 2021, we were able to add 18 new Native Clubs to our portfolio. This speaks to the overall strength of our organization and is a reason for great optimism. Public and private joint ventures will continue to be a cornerstone of our growth strategy and a source of vital resources and support.

BGCA Native Services remains strongly committed to growth and looks forward to welcoming more Native Clubs into our family. As long as we remain united in our one mission to support Native youth, we know that the growth we have seen in the past year will be sustained into 2022 and beyond!



NATIVE YOUTH STEM EVENT

NATIVE YOUTH STEM EVENT

BGCA Native Services believes in the importance of highlighting the opportunities available to Native youth in the field of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). By providing indigenous youth with a diverse array of STEM programming, BGCA Native Services hopes that youth will find their passion in a field that will lead them along the path to a fulfilling, lifelong career.

In November of 2021, Native youth gathered virtually on BGCA's MyFuture digital platform, a safe and accessible space for a day of exploration through the options available in the STEM field. Through generous contributions from Polaris, Walmart, Verizon, Boeing and the American Indian College Fund, Native youth were able to gain insight into potential careers, and participate in STEM-related activities.

Throughout the event, Native youth were joined by Native employees from the sponsoring organizations to share information on different STEM-related careers. Native professionals discussed how they got started in the field, different projects they had worked on, and exciting things that they had helped to develop such as sound technology for a slingshot, engine tuning on planes or creating phone networks. During the event, seven Native Clubs who had completed 100 or more activities on MyFuture received \$5,000 awards to help their Clubs thrive in 2022.

The Native Youth STEM Event was a day filled with learning, discovering passions and gaining memorable experiences. BGCA Native Services is excited to witness the growth of Native Club youth as they embark on their journey to post-secondary education and career success!

PARTNER HIGHLIGHT: RED NOSE DAY

Comic Relief USA's Red Nose Day campaign provided ongoing support for Native Clubs in 2021. Through this partnership, Clubs have been able to continue helping Native youth reach their full potential. May 27, 2021 marked the official Red Nose Day event, and many Native Clubs participated in the festivities to show their appreciation for the unwavering support of Native youth that Comic Relief USA has shown over the years.

This year, Comic Relief USA's Red Nose Day provided BGCA Native Services with new grant funds that matched pre-existing funding. This funding was instrumental in fostering the unprecedented growth experienced by Boys & Girls Clubs on Native Lands in 2021.

With these additional funds, Native Clubs were able to reflect Comic Relief's youth-first mission by increasing the number of total youth served, along with the amount and quality of services provided. This continued support enabled BGCA Native Services to support new Native Clubs, as well as provide additional resources and trainings to existing Clubs. The importance of Comic Relief USA's ongoing contributions to youth programming, safety, and support cannot be understated. This support was a key contributor to building the capacity of Native Clubs in 2021 and we look forward to many more years of partnering together.



NATIVE NATIONAL DAYS OF ADVOCACY

Clubs in Native communities would not be as successful without the continued support received from members of Congress. On November 16-17, 2021, nearly 100 advocates, representing 47 Boys & Girls Clubs on Native Lands virtually participated in BGCA's inaugural Native National Days of Advocacy (NNDOA). Participants shared impact stories with members of Congress in order to foster continued support for the vital work Native Clubs do every day and the positive impacts they have in their communities.

Those in attendance had the opportunity to hear remarks from White House Senior Advisor for Intergovernmental Affairs and Director of Tribal Affairs (and former Club kid), PaaWee Rivera speak concerning the importance of advocating for Native youth and the power of relaying impactful stories when speaking with elected officials.



“ Native National Days of Advocacy gave us the opportunity to advocate for our local communities in a big way. It was special to have access to such high-level leaders who can impact legislative efforts for the benefit of our reservation. ”

- Glen Marshall, Chief Executive Officer, Boys & Girls Club of Rosebud in South Dakota

An investment in the life-changing, culturally relevant programming offered at Native Clubs is an investment in our future. When youth are given opportunities to reach their full potential, it helps families and communities thrive. BGCA Native Services appreciates the opportunity to tell our story to elected officials who can help ensure funding for our Movement going forward. Many thanks to all who participated in this event and advocated on behalf of Native youth.

PARTNER HIGHLIGHT: NORTHWEST AREA FOUNDATION

Support for Native communities is a core component of the Northwest Area Foundation's vision and values. Their overarching mission is to empower Native-led organizations in order to create positive and sustainable community change. This is evident in the foundation's long-standing commitment to BGCA Native Services and investment in Native Clubs. Northwest Area Foundation understands the central role that Native Clubs play in assisting the development of future generations of Native leaders, and with this in mind, the foundation continued its partnership with BGCA Native Services in 2021.



Northwest Area Foundation put its mission into practice by funding a grant opportunity that allowed for holistic Club support. Native Clubs from the Foundation's target region in Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Washington and Oregon all benefited from the Foundation's generosity.

Through the holistic nature of this support, Native Clubs were able to address many areas of need in the Club and community. Grant funds were applied to help youth in areas of need such as workforce development, education assistance and emergency food provision. This wide range of assistance has been invaluable to Native Clubs, and has allowed them to offer sustained support to youth and families in 2021. BGCA Native Services extends heartfelt appreciation to Northwest Area Foundation for their continued commitment to Native communities.

OUR PARTNERS

BGCA Native Services is grateful to our longstanding program partners, who enable us to provide the meaningful youth development programming to thousands of Native youth each year.



AMERICAN
INDIAN
COLLEGE
FUND

AMERICAN INDIAN COLLEGE FUND

The American Indian College Fund, through its commitment with BGCA, has opened up scholarships exclusively for qualified Boys & Girls Club members to attend Tribal colleges and universities (TCUs) in the immediate proximity of their Club. Students must apply and be accepted into a TCU to be considered. Upon acceptance, the scholarships are renewable annually as long as students meet the college's eligibility requirements.



BOEING

Through BGCA Native Services' partnership with Boeing, Boeing will provide sponsorship for the 2022 Native Summit. In addition to they will provide program support and capacity building for both new and existing Native Clubs, as well as providing employee community engagement in coordination with Boeing Native American Network (BNAN) employee leaders.



BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between BGCA and its local affiliates in Indian Country and the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) will allow collaboration to enrich the lives of Native youth by supporting programs that discourage violence and drug abuse, while encouraging good citizenship and educational accomplishments. The goal of this partnership is to use the strengths and expertise of both organizations to improve and enhance the educational well-being of American Indian/ Alaska Native (AI/AN) youth attending BIE-funded schools and dormitories.



CASEY FAMILY PROGRAMS

Casey Family Programs works in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, two territories and more than a dozen tribal nations to influence long-lasting improvements to the safety and success of children, families and the communities where they live. Founded in 1966, Casey Family Programs learn from and collaborate with communities at local, state, tribal and national levels to nurture the safety and success of every child.



INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE (IHS)

IHS provides funding for the Type 2 diabetes prevention program On the T.R.A.I.L. to Diabetes Prevention. T.R.A.I.L. is an innovative combination of educational, physical and nutritional activities that provides youth with a comprehensive understanding of healthy lifestyles with the long-term goal of preventing and/or reducing the onset of Type 2 diabetes. Woven throughout the 12 week program are self-esteem and prevention activities utilized by BGCA, including contributions from national evidence-based programs such as SMART Moves. Club members draw from Native traditions and history to learn about nutrition, food choices, media influences and the impact of Type 2 diabetes.



NORTHWEST AREA FOUNDATION

This partnership aims to expand the number of Native Clubs delivering workforce development programming to Native youth and ensure that Native Clubs can deliver the highest-quality Club Experience by providing an assessment tool that sets Clubs up for continuous improvement. Our goals are to increase Clubs capacity to provide high-quality Workforce Development programs, guiding Native youth to develop 21st century skills and a clear vision of their future career goals. The project meets the Foundation's funding priority for increasing good jobs though development and training that helps to prepare individuals with low incomes for successful futures.



NOVO FOUNDATION

Novo Foundation's initiative seeks to help restore and strengthen indigenous knowledge and life-ways as potentially transformative in addressing some of the world's—and similarly, some of Indigenous communities'—most pressing problems. Through this partnership, Novo and BGCA Native Services will work together to improve the ability of our Native organizations to build and sustain strategic partnerships and key stakeholders through culturally relevant services, youth development programs adapted for Native youth that are driven by outcomes and leadership trainings for Club staff and Board Members.



OJJDP

The U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs (OJP)'s Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) supports BGCA through grants that allow us to strengthen, expand, and implement youth mentoring activities and youth development programming.



POLARIS

BGCA Native Services, in partnership with Polaris and others, will be working together to promote science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) to Native youth. This comes at a crucial time when our communities are seeing immediate, short-term and long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in the area of learning loss. This opportunity will ignite passion and motivate young people attending Boys & Girls Clubs on Native Lands. Through our partnership with Polaris and others, in celebration of National Native American Heritage Month during the month of November, we will find ways to promote and incentivize Club youth to participate on BGCA's digital platform, MyFuture and earn digital recognition in the form of stars, which will recognize the individual activities that young people do in Clubs; badges, which recognize clusters of activities; and master badges, which recognize when young people have completed significant programming in the form of a learning pathway with a main focus on STEM and the activities and badges that have been adapted for Native youth in efforts to create an inclusive environment for Native youth to thrive.



RED NOSE DAY

The aim of Red Nose Day is to bring about real and lasting change by tackling the root causes of childhood poverty and social injustice through the power of entertainment. BGCA Native Services has received proceeds from Red Nose Day, which will be used to build capacity and support increases in average daily attendance in Native Clubs.



THE WALMART FOUNDATION

The Walmart Foundation has provided funding to support Healthy Habits, BGCA's outcome-driven nutrition education program for Native youth. This program addresses the fact that Native youth face much higher rates of diabetes than their non-Native peers by providing access to nutritional education. Healthy Habits is focused on basic cooking techniques, smart food shopping, working around resource constraints and using resources from the local community to create healthy meals.



YALE UNIVERSITY

The initial partnership between Native Boys & Girls Clubs and Yale University came through the 2019 Charles Carl Fellowship Award which enabled Chief Executive Officers from various Boys & Girls Clubs on Native Lands to attend a three-day conference at the Child Study Center in the Yale School of Medicine. This award was made possible by the generous contribution of Dr. Charles Carl, a Yale-alumnus and community psychiatrist aiming to promote Native well-being. The event reflects a budding partnership between Yale Child Study faculty and Boys & Girls Clubs of America's Native Services team which continues to evolve.

CONTINUING TO THRIVE

In the past year, BGCA Native Services has been able to continue our growth into new communities and have built stronger roots with those we currently serve. This has allowed Clubs to reach even more Native youth and provide them with the valuable services they need in their journey to adulthood. As an organization, BGCA Native Services are immensely proud of the growth we have witnessed in 2021. Specifically, we have continued to make the following great strides towards realizing the four key pillars of the Great Futures 2025 Strategy.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB MOVEMENT

GREATFUTURES
2025

- **INCREASE PROGRAM QUALITY** – BGCA Native Services remains committed to adapting the evidence-based programs and tools to fit the cultural needs of Native youth, while also focusing on issues of relevance for today’s youth such as college readiness, STEM careers, diabetes prevention and healthy lifestyles.
- **STRENGTHEN ORGANIZATIONS AND CLUB LEADERSHIP** – Our organization continues to plan and deliver strategic and customized trainings focused on resiliency and resource development. The past year also saw the facilitation of individual virtual consultations to provide the support Clubs needed through this challenging year.
- **ADVOCATE FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT** – Strengthening and empowering needs of our Native youth is central to the mission of BGCA Native Services. This is achieved through engagement with Tribal Leaders, recruitment of purpose-driven Ambassadors and a dedicated adherence to youth voice to expand our circle of influence for the betterment of Native children.
- **REACH MORE YOUTH** – BGCA Native Services is committed to growing our footprint and expanding our reach to those that need us most. In 2021, we expanded our family of Native Clubs from 207 to 225! This matches the highest number of Clubs we have ever served in the history of our organization.

After an impactful 2021, BGCA Native Services looks forward to 2022 and reaching the milestone of celebrating 30 years of Native Clubs. The longevity and continued growth of our organization would not have been achieved without the ongoing work of our dedicated Club staff that devote their time to youth in Native communities every day.

THRIVE in 2020

ONE MISSION uniting us together as ONE





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