We believe every young person deserves the opportunity to build a great future for themselves by, 1) achieving success in school, 2) developing a strong character, and 3) living a healthy lifestyle.

THE NEED

Approximately 90% of all students with low test scores in Newark come from economically disadvantaged families. In Newark, 18% of all children live in extreme poverty, and 69% live in low-income families. Poverty is also a known contributing factor of risky behavior among children and adolescents, as well as a cause for unhealthy food choices and lifestyle habits. Additionally, tooth decay, an issue BGCN addresses, is the leading cause of school absences.

THE NUMBERS

- BGCN has been building great futures in Newark for 109 years since 1908
- 888 children served: 548 children served across 5 sites in our After School Program, 282 children attended our Summer Enrichment Camp, 58 teens through our Teen Center
- 488 children received preventative dental care at our in-house dental center
- An additional 226 children participated in community outreach events like pop-up playstreets and Minecraft tournaments
- 250 children completed an asthma awareness and preventative program
- 37 families were provided with counseling and referral services, and parent-education workshops

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REGULAR PROGRAMS

Power Hour: An hour of homework help everyday

STEM: Practical, fun lessons in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math

Fitness: Sports, dance, and gym activities

Healthy Habits: Workshops in nutrition and hygiene

SmartMoves: Training to resist negative influences and make good decisions

Brain Gain: A summer program that combats learning loss through creative projects

Keystone Club: A teen leadership program that lets young adults explore their potential as leaders of their community

Wellness: Access to mental health and wellness resources, free dental and vision care

SPECIAL AND NEW PROGRAMS

Community Outreach Events: This year, BGCN initiated a number of community outreach events. We held three summer pop-up playstreets, community initiatives to bring the Clubhouse experience to Newark neighborhoods, and partnered with GetFocused and the City of Newark. We held a Minecraft Tournament, a competition where community Minecraft enthusiasts and our own Club Members engaged their creative thinking skills, and plan to host more. In September, we hosted GirlSport, a fitness, self-care, and nutrition workshop designed to strengthen the athletic and nutritional development of girls ages 6-18.

Asthma Preparedness: In January 2017, BGCN was approved to implement The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey’s Breathe Easier with Asthma Management (BEAM) Phase III program for 250 children. Three BGCN staff members implemented both the Asthma Awareness (AA) Program for Non-Asthmatic Youth and Open Airways for Schools (OAS) Program for Asthmatic Youth with our members. These programs prepare children to guard themselves against environments that could cause them long-term respiratory harm, as well as teach them how to identify if a friend is having an asthma attack, and what to do in such a situation.

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