

**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE PEE DEE AREA
2024 Annual Report**



Dear Friends,

What started on the second floor above a pool hall in downtown Florence over 60 years ago now reaches across three counties with six locations serving more than 3,000 youth and teens annually.

Over the years, there have been many changes, but one thing has remained the same at Boys & Girls Clubs of the Pee Dee Area. Our commitment to meet the needs of every child that walks through our doors has remained strong. We are steadfast in our commitment to continue to provide an affordable and safe environment, high-quality programs, and unique experiences that are life-changing for those children and teens that need us most.

We believe every child not only has the ability but should be given the opportunity to have a great future. It is that belief that drives us each and every day.

During the past year, there have been many achievements and recognitions to celebrate. In 2024, we reached a record of 1,000 youth every school day receiving club services. Of these, more than 65% reported an optimal Club experience, another record high. We were ranked in the top 20% of clubs nationwide in BGCA's Key Performance Indicators for organizational effectiveness. We saw two clubs receive the U.S. Department of Education's prestigious Engage Every Student Award. The S.C. Association of Boys & Girls Clubs recognized our Board with its Board Team of the Year Award and our Young Explorers program focused on serving homeless youth as its Program of the Year.

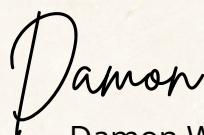
Yes, there was much to be proud of in 2025, but we know none of this is possible without a giving and supportive community. Our kids thank you!

Today, our clubs are serving more kids than ever, but we cannot be satisfied as there are hundreds more kids that need a Boys & Girls Club. We must continue to do Whatever It Takes to meet the needs of kids across the Pee Dee region, empowering them to make positive life choices that will fuel their success. As you turn the pages of this report, you will learn about our exciting plans for the future.

We thank our volunteers, staff, Board of Directors, partners, and community members who help us advocate for and serve children and teens in the Pee Dee.

Your investments allow us to strengthen programs and continue our promise to provide a Club experience that changes lives every day.

With our sincere thanks,



Damon White
Board Chair



Neal L. Zimmerman Jr.
Executive Director



Our Mission

*To inspire and enable all young people from throughout the Pee Dee Area, **especially those who need us most**, to become productive, responsible, and caring citizens.*

Our Vision

To be the best youth serving organization in the Pee Dee by providing an outstanding Club experience that assures success is within reach of every young person who enters our doors. We want all members to graduate from high school, have a plan for the future, demonstrate good character, and enjoy a healthy lifestyle.



Our Promise

To the Youth of the Pee Dee Area

To provide a safe environment and have a positive impact on their lives. Our alumni will graduate from high school ready for work or college.

To the Communities of the Pee Dee Area

To uphold high ethical standards in all areas, especially in overseeing our finances, collecting and reporting data, being good stewards of the donor dollar, and representing ourselves to the public.



GREAT FUTURES START HERE.



Think after school programs aren't important? Think again.

Children without afterschool programs who are unsupervised between the hours of 3 and 6 pm are

- Twice as likely to hang out with gang members
- 37% more likely to become a teen parent
- 49% more likely to have used drugs
- Three times as likely to be engaged in criminal behavior



Children who spend time in enrichment activities after school have **better grades, better work habits, and more positive relationships** with their peers.

Every \$1 invested in afterschool programs saves at least \$3 by

- Increasing kids earning potential as adults
- Improving kids performance at school
- Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency



Boys & Girls Clubs give children the opportunity to develop skills such as

- Creative thinking
- Problem solving
- Communication
- Self-direction



Meet *Genesis* 2024 Regional Youth of the Year



“ *The Boys & Girls Club
helped me find my voice.* ”

Genesis Majors went from a shy girl who was bullied for a speech impediment to a confident young woman with a plan for her future thanks to the Boys & Girls Club.

Staff listened to her struggles every day after school and gave her the guidance she needed to change her mindset from victim to victor. Eight years after setting her foot through the doors at the Lake City Boys & Girls Club for the first time, she is a big sister to younger kids at the Club. She won Youth of the Year two years in a row, and she plans to study at Francis Marion University to become an athletic trainer.

Volunteer Leadership

Our Board of Directors leads our executive and staff, pursues best practices, and always keeps what's best for the kids at the forefront of their decisions.

Officers *Listed from left to right. Name, Office, Business/Occupation, Anniversary of Service to the Board*



Damon White, Board Chair
Assurant, 2017
Bilal Davis, Secretary
Innovative Construction Group, 2024
Curtis Jacobs, Treasurer
Carolina Canners, 2024
Patricia Parr, Immediate Past Chair
Attorney, Retired, 2016
Jeff Stevens, Vice Chair
Pepsi of Florence, 2016
Merrette Dowdell, Vice Chair
MUSC Health, 2023
Chipper Smith, Vice Chair
Smith Funeral Home, 2017
Larry Waring, Vice Chair
Duke Energy, Retired, 2017



Board Members *Listed from left to right. Name, Business/Occupation, Anniversary of Service to the Board*



Carla Angus, ArtFields, 2018
Kenny Barnes, Rep. James Clyburn's Office, 2002
Virginia Buyck, Synergi, 2020
Chloe Davis, Waccamaw Center for Mental Health, 2023

Solomon Eaddy Jr., Peoples Funeral Home, 2017
Tom Ewart, First Reliance Bank, 1995
Ervik Gary, Francis Marion University, 2025



Shane Gebhards, SVG Digital, 2025
Kyle Gunter, FBi Construction, 2015
Ian Harris, Niagara, 2025
Richard Harrington, Retired Businessman, 1996

Robert Harris, Retired Finance Officer, 2008
Chris Hughes, Hemingway Businessman, 2025
Thomas McFadden, Town of Timmonsville, 2021

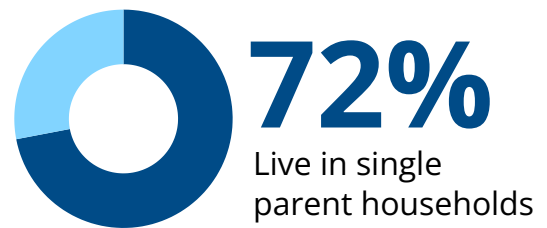


Susan McGill, Finklea, Hendrick & Blake, 2025
Erik Marechal, Accountable Insurance Partners, 2006
Bill Query, Retired Manufacturing, 2019
Rev. Calvin Robinson, Trinity Baptist Church, 2018

Richard Skipper, State Farm Insurance, 2008
Carrington Wingard, Retired Attorney, 2015
Jim Wright, W. Lee Flowers, 2025



Youth Served
3,000+ Ages 6-18
1,000 daily



52% Male 48% Female

75% Ages 6-12 **25%** Teens, ages 13-18

75 & 34
Public schools Zip Codes

are represented in our membership



91% of Club members are served by no other youth organization





Our Programs

Youth of the Year fosters a new generation of leaders, prepared to live and lead in a diverse, global and integrated world economy.



SMART Girls provides health, fitness, prevention education and self-esteem enhancement for girls.



Power Hour provides tutoring that encourages Club members to become self-directed learners.



Triple Play is a comprehensive health and wellness program that strives to improve the overall health of Club members by increasing daily physical activity, teaching them about good nutrition and helping develop healthy relationships.



Youth Development Strategy





Feeding hungry bellies

One in 6 children in South Carolina face food insecurity. We serve healthy meals every day after school and during the summer. We are battling hunger not only at our clubs but also by providing food to six other program sites.

Bringing hope to homeless

Our Florence Club's Young Explorers Program gives 50 youth affected by homelessness the opportunity to attend a Boys & Girls Club and receive vital services.

With 400 youth identified by Florence 1 Schools as homeless, we must continue to expand our efforts.

Opening young minds

Field trips provide young people opportunities to see a world beyond their neighborhood, whether that's experiencing wild animals at the zoo or touring a college campus.

*"The first time I ever saw the ocean, I was 12 years old, and the Club took me."
- Jayden*



BACK A KID

*Sponsor a child
for an entire year
at the Club
\$2,800*

STEM Program

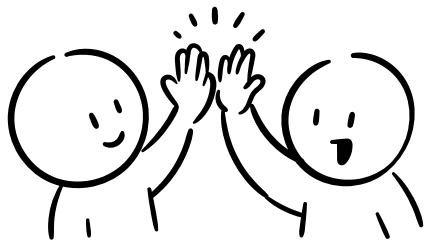
*Sponsor STEM
activities for 40
kids for a year
\$5,000*

Create Leaders

*Underwrite 12
weeks of programs
for 125 kids
\$10,000*

Food Insecurity

*Help us feed
180,000 meals
across the Pee Dee
\$25,000*



We Can't Do It Alone

We are grateful to all our financial supporters from 2024. Your support came from three main ways:

Special Events

Steak N Burger Dinner
Early March

Champions for Youth
Late August

Night of Hope
October

Carolina Classic
December 27-29

Program Underwriter

Young Explorers
Kids affected by homelessness

Summer Reading
Learning literacy all year

General Support

No matter which avenue you choose to give, your gift made a difference.

"I can go to work and not worry about my children and know their homework will be completed."

- Mary, Club member mom



Because of your gifts, we were able to

240

Open our doors 240+ days a year, every day after school and throughout the summer

180,000

Serve more than 180,000 meals to those in need

1,000

Impact the lives of 1,000+ boys and girls daily



Top Corporate & Foundation Partners

Based on 2024 donations

\$20,000 and above



THE LONGLEAF FUND

DEEP ROOTS. STRONG BRANCHES.



SOUTH CAROLINA
FEDERAL
CREDIT UNION®



FULL LIFE. FULL FORWARD.
FLORENCE
SOUTH CAROLINA

HONDA

Rick & Susan Goings Foundation



United Way
of Florence County

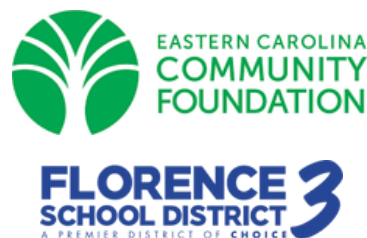
\$10,000 to \$19,999

ThermoFisher
SCIENTIFIC

F&J Foundation



Accountable
Insurance Partners



FLORENCE 3
SCHOOL DISTRICT
A PREMIER DISTRICT OF CHOICE



\$5,000 to \$9,999



MICHAEL PHELPS
FOUNDATION



W. LEE FLOWERS

McLeod Health

DUNKIN'



Joan S. & Charles W. Coker Foundation



They said

YOU WILL NOT FAIL

and they didn't let me

Boys & Girls Club saved my life

Kevin Robinson, a Florence native and Wilson grad, had a tough childhood. His struggle began with several police officers knocking at his door at 8 o'clock at night when he was 6. "I was scared out of my mind," he recalled.

The officers took him and his six brothers and sisters from his parents. They ended up spread across South Carolina, moving all the time, with new schools and new families, as they navigated the foster care system.

Growing up, like most kids, he needed someplace safe to go after school. The Boys & Girls Club became that place for Robinson. He didn't know anything about the Club before he started to attend.

"The Club was just fun," he said. Activities he enjoyed included swimming, going on field trips, playing in the gym, and mingling with other kids.

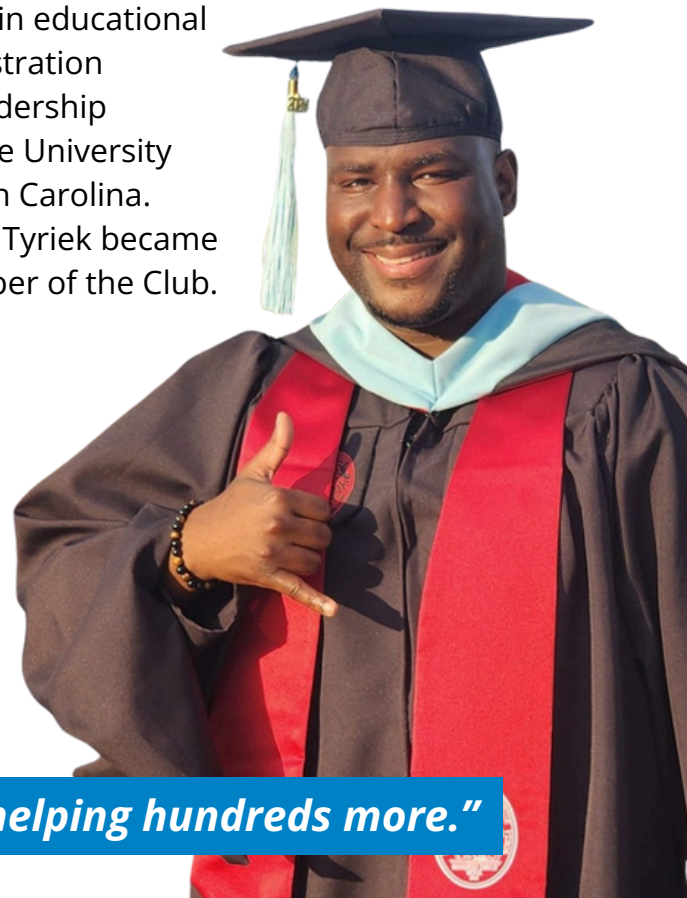
Another highlight was the food. "I remember stuffing food in my pockets to take home."

The share table, where kids can leave all or portions of their snacks for others, lives on today, as Boys & Girls Clubs of the Pee Dee Area serve more than 180,000 meals every year.

"I was around positive people who showed me right from wrong," Robinson said. "Mr. [Decar] Brown took me in as one of his own."

The Club gave Robinson his first job at 18, and the Club Service program helped him get his first degree at Florence Darlington Technical College.

Today, Robinson works as a sixth-grade science teacher at Williams Middle School, holds a bachelor's degree in counseling from Columbia College and a master's degree in educational administration and leadership from the University of South Carolina. His son Tyriek became a member of the Club.



"You help one kid at a time, and now he's helping hundreds more."

86%

Of Club members
behavior has improved
inside and outside the
classroom thanks to
the Clubs, according to
teacher surveys



**The sentiment
expressed by many
teachers –
“If you can fix their
behavior, I can teach
them” – reinforces our
commitment to focus
on students’ social and
emotional wellness
and character.**

Experienced Leadership

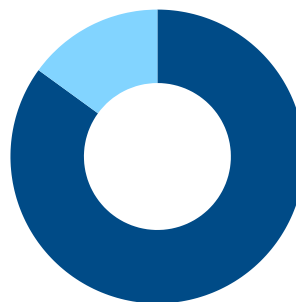
Our staff leaders have more than
100 years of youth development
experience.



Neal L. Zimmerman Jr., Executive Director
Mike Woods, Director of Programs
Decar Brown, Director of Operations

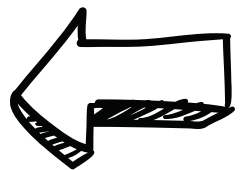
Where our dollars come from – and go

Individuals & Businesses	15%
Public Grants	35%
Private Grants	17%
Food Program	29%
Client Fees	2%
Investments	2%



85%

Dollars go to
direct services,
programs & kids



Achievements

National & State Recognition

Our Florence and Lake City Clubs were two of 14 afterschool sites nationwide that received the **Engage Every Student Award** for quality programming.

Our Board and our Young Explorers Program for homeless youth received the **Board Team Award and Program of the Year Award** from the South Carolina Area Council.



Board members receive awards in Columbia.

Meet *Aiden* 2024 Runner Up Regional Youth of the Year

Even though he made mistakes and got suspended, Club staff stayed by his side with the encouragement he needed to get back on track. Because of the Club, he's doing well at his new school, helping with community projects, setting goals, and making plans to reach them.



Our Impact

- 89%** Parents report the Club allows someone in the house to work
- 96%** Members avoid risky behaviors, i.e. smoking, alcohol and fighting
- 90%** Members say the Club gives them a sense of belonging



Where we are going in 2025 & beyond



We must **invest in our staff**, so they are not only highly trained youth development professionals but also are appropriately compensated in order to meet the needs of their own families.

We must **expand services to teens** and retain younger members as they develop into teens.

We must **stay committed to being an affordable and inviting option** for even the most vulnerable. We must maximize local support and multiply that support from outside the Pee Dee region to extend our reach to the underserved.

We must stay committed to a **continuous improvement process** to ensure the highest level of program quality and impact.

We must **build sustainability** to ensure programs continue providing critical community support for years to come.

And most importantly, we must let kids be kids at the Club where learning and growing is FUN!

Come with us...





“

The Boys & Girls Club is a place where everyone matters.

”



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE PEE DEE AREA**

P.O. Box 93
Florence, SC 29503
843-662-1142

Where we are

Florence

310 W. Roughfork St.
843-662-1471

Hartsville

1103A S. Sixth St.
843-332-1400

Hemingway

51 Lewis Road
843-558-1302

Lake City

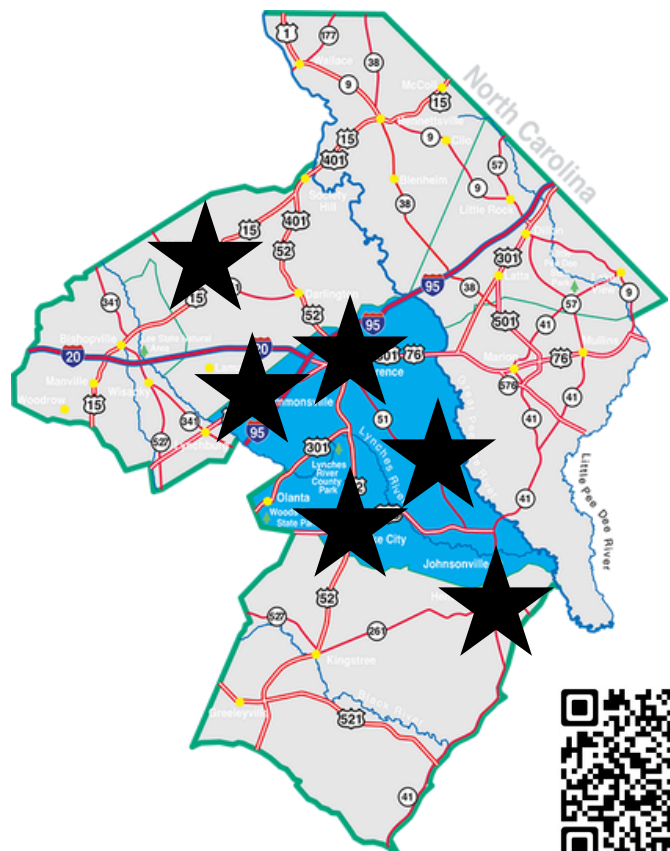
131 Calhoun St.
843-374-3749

Pamplico

2121 S. Pamplico Hwy.
843-713-1319

Timmonsville

304 Kemper St.
843-713-1320



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