



OPPORTUNITY CHANGES EVERYTHING

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

STRONGER CONNECTIONS



ROD PACHOLZUK
Board President



JEREMY WELDER
CEO

As all of us in the Okanagan tried our best to live and work in the midst of a global pandemic, our communities were left with uncertainties in their work, school and lives. This was a time for BGC Okanagan to be there for children, youth and families. The priorities we established that carried us through the year included – stability, continuity and communication.

Today, we are proud to say, we continued offering essential services to the communities we serve throughout the Okanagan without interruption throughout the pandemic. We did so by pivoting, offering many of our programs virtually, and always going back to our priorities. We worked with local School Districts to provide essential service workers with vital childcare and kept all of our centres open to meet the needs of families. All counselling and support programs have remained open, with staff providing support through phone and the use of other technology. Staff in our youth programs continued to provide support and basic needs to our youth throughout the pandemic.

During the pandemic we not only provided stability for our Club families, but also for BGC Okanagan staff. A large majority of our staff remained employed with us, and became pillars of strength for our families by standing on the frontlines to ensure their children had a safe place. The staff showed incredible resiliency and we were able to recognize their efforts and the challenges they faced through increased compensation for the time they continued to provide direct service to our participants.

We are particularly proud of the communication that we maintained with staff and participants during this time. Through social media, we provided updates on programs to our Club members and the public at large. An internal newsletter was introduced to staff during the pandemic where we provided the latest updates on what was happening from the north to the south Okanagan, building connections throughout our organization. A crisis communications committee was created to ensure timely and accurate information was reaching our Club families and staff.

As well as ensuring continuity and stability within our programs and organization, over the last year we have also been working to grow our reach and services. This included virtual programming to give children, youth and families, especially those in remote communities, opportunities to continue connecting with our staff and their peers. We committed to this by hiring a virtual programs coordinator and started development on a unique platform to further enhance our virtual services.

We also were successful in receiving funding for four new childcare centres in partnership with School District #22 in the North Okanagan, as well as funding to build two new club locations in Vernon in partnership with the City of Vernon. In the Central Okanagan, in partnership with School District #23, we applied for funding for three new club locations. All of these new sites will allow us to expand our services to children, youth and families in these communities – services that are more vital today than ever.

Also this year, in partnership with School District 23 and several local stakeholders, we successfully launched Upstream Kelowna. Upstream is an early intervention and prevention program to youth homelessness. It is one of only two pilot programs in Canada. In the Spring of 2021 we hosted an online kickoff event which saw local municipal, provincial and federal politicians, our community partners and other key stakeholders in attendance.

In the second half of the year we began work on the re-branding from Boys and Girls Clubs of the Okanagan to BGC Okanagan. After the national office consulted with LGBTQ2S+ community members, stakeholders, youth and Club leadership from across the country, Clubs collectively made the change to using BGC instead of Boys and Girls Clubs. This is because we open our doors to all children, youth and families, and we believe our name should reflect that. Changing from the dated, non-inclusive language also embraces the fact that we serve young people and families of all ages, background and identities.

This past year also allowed us to further look at our facilities and how we can continue to improve, upgrade and provide the best for our Club members and families. After 20 years in the same location, the Lake Country Club found a new home in the new Multi Aged Centre (MAC). With the support of the District of Lake Country we now have a new facility to welcome children, youth and families to in the Fall of 2021.

Over the next year, we know we will have to navigate the long-term impacts of the pandemic. We remain committed to ensuring continuity and stability as we navigate these uncertain times to make sure our services are there for all children, youth and families. As well, we work to expand our programs and services to support more participants. We know the importance of providing these opportunities to the children, youth and families we serve because opportunity changes everything.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Director

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Director

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Director

Barbara Rigg
Director

Ray Warren
Director

our MiSSION

To provide safe, supportive places where children and youth can experience new opportunities, overcome barriers, build positive relationships, and develop confidence and skills for life.

our ViSION

All children and youth discover and achieve their dreams and grow up to be healthy, successful, and active participants in society.



our VALUES

Belonging

We welcome everyone in a safe, accepting environment based on belonging and positive relationships

Respect

We ensure that everyone—children, youth, families, volunteers, staff—is heard, valued, and treated fairly

Encouragement and Support

We encourage and support every child and youth to play, learn, and grow to achieve their dreams

Working Together

We work together with young people, families, volunteers, our communities, and government

Speaking Out

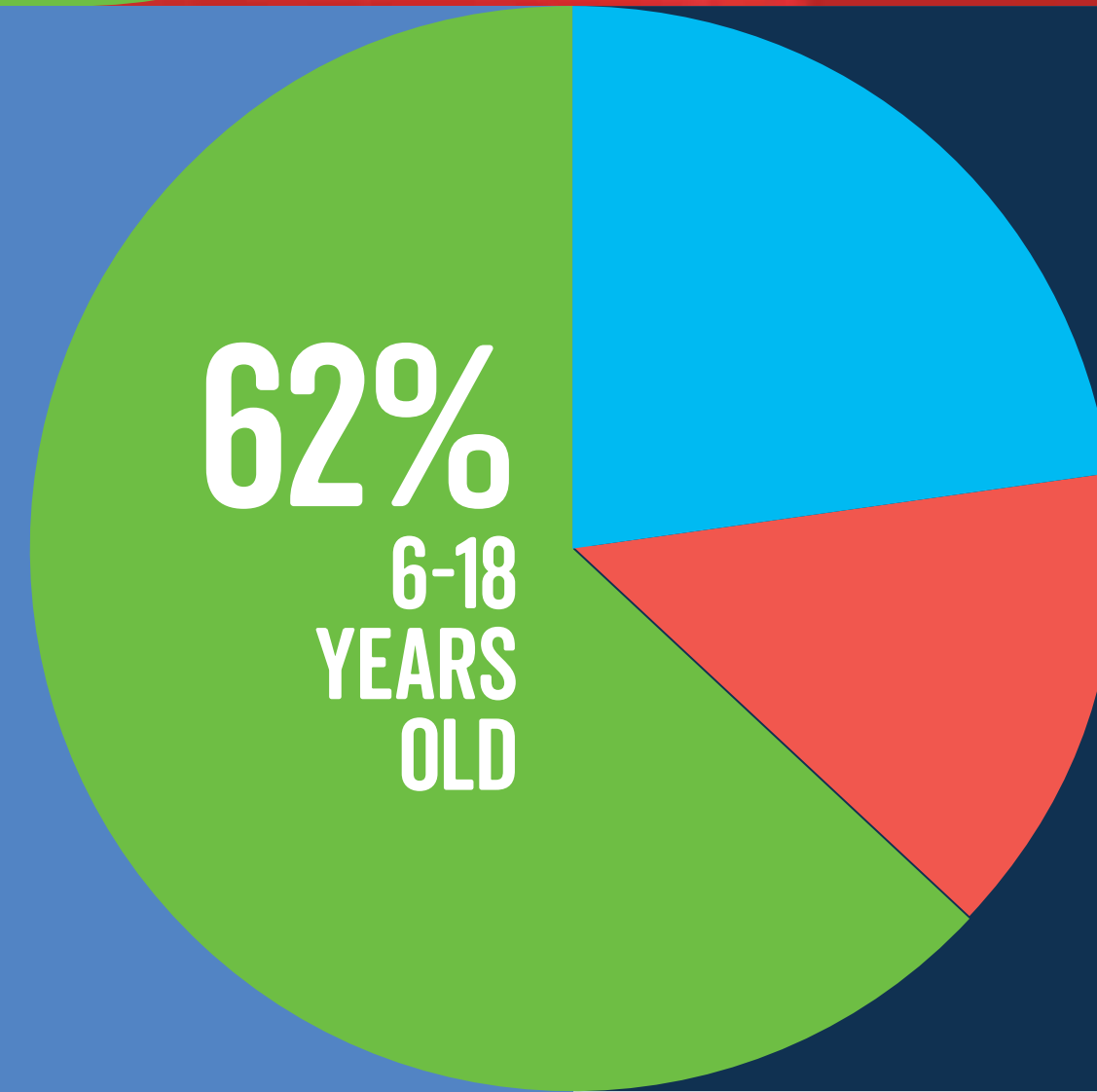
We speak out for children, youth, and families so that we can make our world better

who we ARE

Since BGC Okanagan established their first Club in 1959, we have continued to provide vital, life-changing services and programs that continue to adapt to meet the needs of all children, youth and families.



who we SERVE



62% 6-18
YEARS OLD

21% 19+
YEARS OLD

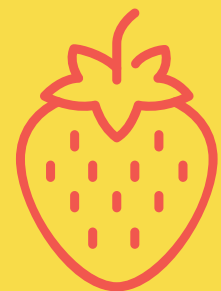
17% 5 AND
UNDER



WHAT CLUBS DO



**PHYSICAL
FITNESS
& SPORTS**



**HEALTHY
SNACKS &
MEALS**

**BREAKFAST
PROGRAMS**

**NUTRITION
& FOOD
EDUCATION**

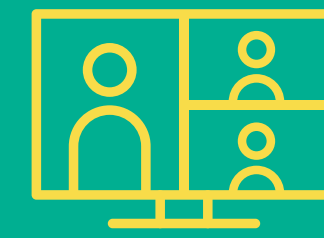
GARDENING



**SUMMER
CAMPS**



**MUSIC
DANCE
THEATRE
ARTS**



**VIRTUAL
PROGRAMMING**



**AFTER SCHOOL
PROGRAMS**



**HOMEWORK
HELP**



**STEM
EDUCATION**



**FINANCIAL
EDUCATION**



**DIGITAL
LITERACY**

MENTORING

**YOUTH
LEADERSHIP**

VOLUNTEERING

**CIVIC
ENGAGEMENT**

**YOUTH
EXCHANGES**

TRANSPORTATION

CHILD CARE

**PARENTING
EDUCATION
& SUPPORT**

**JOB
READINESS**

SCHOLARSHIPS

**INDIGENOUS
INITIATIVES &
PROGRAMS**



**MENTAL
HEALTH &
WELLNESS**

**SUBSTANCE
ABUSE &
PREVENTION**

**CRIME
PREVENTION**

**TEEN DATING
VIOLENCE
PREVENTION**

**YOUTH
SHELTERS
& HOUSING**

**RESTORATIVE
JUSTICE**

41
CLUB
LOCATIONS

319
STAFF
MEMBERS

102
VOLUNTEERS

5,999
CHILDREN AND
YOUTH SERVED

16
COMMUNITIES
SERVED

2,060
VOLUNTEER
HOURS

108,828
HEALTHY MEALS
AND SNACKS
SERVED

VIRTUAL

www.bgco.ca/virtual-clubs/

NORTH OKANAGAN

ARMSTRONG

Armstrong Community Centre
Armstrong Foodbank

COLDSTREAM

Lavington Elementary School
- After School Program

FALKLAND

Falkland Elementary School -
After School Program
Recreation Programs

VERNON

Alexis Park Elementary School
- After School Program
Harwood Elementary School
- Lunch/Recreation Program
Teen Junction Youth Centre
Vernon Boys and Girls Club

CENTRAL OKANAGAN

KELOWNA

A.S. Matheson Elementary
- Afterschool & Preschool Program
Cameron Park Early Learning Centre
Cedar Creek Afterschool Program
Downtown Youth Centre
Martin Avenue Community Centre

North Glenmore Little Gators Preschool
Boys and Girls Club Administration office
Penny Lane Transition House
Rutland Boys and Girls Club
Rutland Middle School - Lunch program
South Rutland - After School Program
Springvalley - After School Program

LAKE COUNTRY

Davidson Road Elementary School
- After School Program
Lake Country Boys and Girls Club
Peter Greer Elementary School
- After School Program
Oyama - After School Program

PEACHLAND

Peachland Boys and Girls Club
Peachland Elementary School
- Preschool Program

WEST KELOWNA

Chief Tomat Preschool
George Pringle - After School Program
Helen Gorman Preschool
Hudson Road After School Program
Webber Road Community Centre
Westside Youth Centre

SOUTH OKANAGAN

NARAMATA

Naramata Elementary School
- Recreation Program

OKANAGAN FALLS

Okanagan Falls Elementary School
- After School Program

OLIVER

Oliver Boys and Girls Club
Oliver Youth Centre at the Hangar

OSOYOOS

Sonora Recreation Centre - Youth Programs

PENTICTON

Penticton Boys and Girls Club
Integrated Family Development Program

SUMMERLAND

Summerland Boys and Girls Club

UPSTREAM KELOWNA

For many years we have been getting involved when the crisis of youth homelessness and school disengagement has already hit and then trying to support youth to tip the scales back so they have a chance to grow up healthy, happy and thriving adults. Through launching and leading Upstream Kelowna we knew there was potential to reduce inflow to youth homelessness by intervening before the crisis hits.

BGC Okanagan is the local lead organization in piloting Upstream Kelowna, and through early assessment and intervention with youth, we believe we can not only protect young people and their families from experiencing crisis and escalating risk, but effectively turn off the tap to homelessness.



SECURED PARTNERSHIPS

with Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, A Way Home Canada, Journey Home Society and School District 23, as well as with the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society, The Bridge Youth and Family Services, Foundry Kelowna and ARC Programs for delivery service



Prepped schools for implementation with the **GOAL OF SURVEYING** up to 250 students per school, anticipating 25% of students surveyed would be assessed as having some risk, and 5-10% of students at risk would require wrap around case support

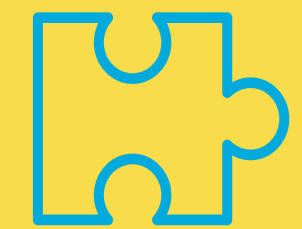


VIRTUALLY HELD LAUNCH

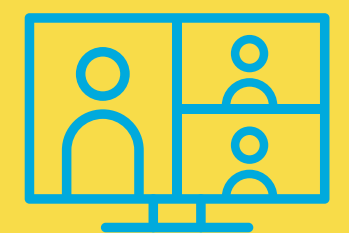
of Upstream Kelowna in March, which had over 40 attendees including Kelowna Mayor Colin Basran, MP Tracy Gray and MP Dan Albas



BGC Okanagan is leading one of only two **PILOT PROGRAMS** across the country



The Upstream Kelowna project **FOCUSES ON YOUTH IN GRADE 8** as the "Roadmap for Prevention of Youth Homelessness" indicates the average age of leaving home in youth with lived experience of homelessness is 16 years old



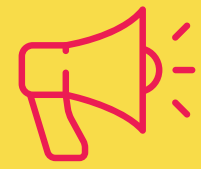
We interviewed youth with lived experience of homelessness, who helped us **CHAMPION** the project in our community and give insight into the local design

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

We are committed to offering virtual programs to communities across the Okanagan Valley, with main hubs providing Activity Kits for pick up. In 2020, we hired a Virtual Programs Coordinator to explore building a BGC Okanagan platform to enhance our offerings. In the meantime, staff used a variety of virtual platforms to create quality, fun, and engaging virtual experiences for children, youth and families.

Staff attended training offered through Jays Care Foundation and BGC Canada to create program plans and use resources to support virtual programs.

“Thank you for offering this for my kids. It was a great way to see their friends, and have fun with others, without our family having to open our bubble to connect with others. We need to keep our contact with others very limited due to health issues and this gave our kids a fun, summer camp experience without us having to leave home. - Parent



Early Years stream offered a range of activities from story time to cooking and crafts that led to **THOUSANDS OF FACEBOOK VIEWS/ENGAGEMENT**



Middle Years programs **CONNECTED CHILDREN** in communities where program facilities were closed due to the pandemic (most impacted were rural - Enderby, Peachland, Okanagan Falls)



67 YOUTH PARTICIPATED in five different Virtual Programs that provided socialization, arts/ crafts, education support, homework support, leadership development, baking, book club, and more



1,351 HOURS of programming was offered to Middle Years



335 EARLY YEARS PARTICIPANTS took part in 690 hours of programming



PARENTS TOGETHER offered 32 hours of virtual sessions helping parents or caregivers of teens gain confidence, discover practical tips and resources, and find support from other parents. We had parents who had “graduated” out of support return as guest speakers to talk to new parents in the group and offer encouragement



LAKE COUNTRY PROJECT

The MAC building, being completed by the District of Lake Country, is an innovative, purpose-built, flexible community facility that will provide a centrally-located place for the Lake Country Boys and Girls Club and sustainable community activity programming for the growing municipality. The three-storey building is a 19,000 sq. ft. multi-functional building.

Also home to the Lake Country Seniors Activity Society, The MAC will meet the needs of individuals of all ages. The improvements will serve to better integrate the distinct spaces contributing to a vibrant healthy community.

We are so excited for the opportunity to operate current and new programs in this beautiful facility, which is expected to open in September 2021.



\$8.175 MILLION

is the District of Lake Country project budget, in which they contributed \$1 million

\$5.75 MILLION

came from the Federal gas tax strategic priorities fund and \$500,000 through the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund

THE MAC

will include daycare spaces with outdoor play areas, youth activity spaces, washrooms, office, reception, tech lab, art studio, kitchen and parking



This project will

CREATE NEW, AND ENHANCE EXISTING, COMMUNITY SPACE

to provide a place for complementary activities and groups in the heart of the Lake Country town centre at the NEXUS - the home for the Winfield Arena, Curling Rink, Seniors' Activity Centre as well as the Food Bank and McCarthy Park

75,710

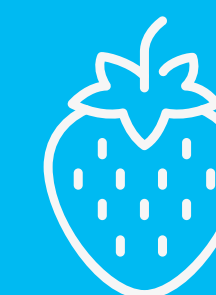
hours of programming
AT LAKE COUNTRY



ADDITIONAL HOURS of programming at community sites - Peter Greer and Oyama - and not included in Lake Country is:
22,131

58,942 VISITS

to the Lake Country Club



14,573

healthy meals and snacks served in Lake Country

Lake Country served
307 CLUB MEMBERS,

245 members are between the ages of 5-14 years old and 62 members are under five years old

iN-KiND DONATiONS



22 CHROMEBOOKS
to support
youth virtual learning



275 BREAKFASTS IN A BOX
sold to support Pink Shirt Day



\$3,500 FROM INDIGO
in new books that went to
OKANAGAN YOUTH



THOUSANDS OF PPE
supplies donated by so many
companies/supporters it
was impossible to count



\$822,090
in monetary and
in-kind donations



**500
AFTER THE BELL
SNACK PACKS**
provided to children and youth



\$150,000
in grants to help support
our new Virtual Club



204 FAMILIES AND YOUTH
sponsored by Adopt a Family/
Youth Program donors





bgco.ca

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