



A Message from Ivan Gilreath, President & CEO

Greetings from all of us at Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands,

I hope all of you are healthy and doing well. As you know, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands is currently closed for the time being. These are certainly challenging times we are in. And while Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands' physical doors are closed, our programs and services for Club members and their families are still open. So we are excited to share some updates and good news with you!



With the COVID-19 crisis in full swing, we are focusing on three key areas of support for our Club members:

1) Free Evening Meals - Club members and their families can pick up a USDA SFSP meal at eight of our Club locations throughout the metro. We wanted to do something that would ensure our kids, and their families, have the evening meals that have always been provided by the Clubs. The key difference now is that we also are providing it to the parents and they really appreciate it. We also thought it would be a great way to still check in with our members, to make sure they are doing ok. [As of April 30, 2020, we had served more than 19,500 meals.](#)

2) Technology Assistance - With schools turning to e-learning, having technology at home, such as a Chromebook, become critical for families. We certainly don't want our Club members to fall behind. Summer learning loss disadvantages are bad enough now we have added spring. We heard from many families that they didn't have technology at home. And that their children have been trying to complete their schoolwork on a phone. During our evening meal distribution, families can pick up a device to use from home during this time. We realize that we may not get this technology back or if we do it will not be in the same condition, but the need is worth the risk. [As of April 30, 2020, we had handed out 224 mobile technology devices to our families.](#)



3) Virtual Programming - While our Club members can't be in our Clubs, it doesn't mean our programming and support has to stop. Club staff have rolled out programming in unique ways to continue to engage and help our members.

- Club staff are calling each of members, and their families, to ensure that they are doing ok – and asking how the Clubs can help during this time.
- We are providing fun paper worksheets and packets during evening meal service. [As of April 30, 2020, we have handed out 1,900 packets to members.](#)
- We also have handed out [200 books](#) for members to read and [200 resource packets](#) for parents during our meal service.
- Our Club staff are offering virtual events for our members to participate in. We have held zoom meetings with groups to discuss what is happening. Another great example is our Scholarship and Outreach team hosting a weekly show on YouTube for teen members.
- Beginning May 4, 2020, we are starting Virtual Programming or VOICE (Virtual Online Interactive Club Experience). For two hours on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, Club members will be able to participate in art, STEM, fitness, nutrition and more through Zoom videos with our staff.

Lastly, we have said it many times, and we will continue to say it – [our staff are the Clubs greatest asset.](#) While we closed our Club doors, we wanted to ensure that all our staff weren't negatively impacted by the closure. Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands has made a commitment to pay all staff during this time, including our part-time staff.



We are extremely grateful for our supporters and invaluable partners during these unprecedented times. Thank you for standing with us as we work to continue to provide essential services to our community, Club members, and their families. We can't wait to see our members back in our Clubs again!

Sincerely,

Ivan Gilreath
President & CEO
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands