Boys and Girls Clubs of America

What

The statistics are alarming! America's children are in crisis. More than 30% of our young people do not graduate from high school, creating social and economic problems for our whole nation. Juvenile crime escalates between the critical hours of 3-7pm when children are off school and parents are not yet home from work. America has an estimated 15.1 million children left unsupervised during these hours of the day. Three out of 10 of our children are overweight or obese due to lack of health and fitness opportunities. One in five of our young people live in poverty.

How

We provide answers to these problems through our afterschool programs. An education is the main road to reducing the risk of poverty. In support of education and career, we are proactive in partnering youth with parents, schools, and other community members to target academic achievement, prevent dropout, and provide intervention as needed to help children stay in school. Over 90% of our alumni earn their high school diploma or equivalent. At our centers, we help youth become responsible, caring citizens through leadership and decision making opportunities. We provide adult supervised opportunity for young people to participate in sports, health and life skills programs, and the arts during those critical, unsupervised times when the potential for juvenile crime is high.

Who

Boys and Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) is a safe place for children to learn and grow. BGCA established roots in 1860 with Hartford, Connecticut’s Mary Goodwin, Alice Goodwin, and Elizabeth Hammersley who were convinced boys who were roaming the streets should have something better to do. BGCA programs are built around the core beliefs of ongoing relationships with caring adults, life-enhancing activities and opportunity for developing positive character.

Our Chairman of the Board, Ronald J. Gidwitz, currently heads the BGCA. Gidwitz has held numerous leadership positions in American Fortune 500 companies, is active in Chicago business and arts communities, and in the State of Illinois politics.

Jim Clark is our 11th President and CEO. Clark began his tenure with BGCA in Milwaukee where he served for eight years as president, and 10 years as an active member of the BGCA of Greater Milwaukee Friends Board.

Gidwitz and Clark are supported by five Chairman Emeritus, four vice chairman, five chairman, and a secretary, treasurer, and ethicist. Additionally, over 50 Board of Governors members from all over the United States serve with them in driving the directives of the BGCA.

Footnote: education, health, social welfare/human rights, sports
What

Football in the UK is the lifeblood for most of our citizens. It provides healthy activity for our youth and families. However, our facilities have long history and many years of use and abuse. They need continual repairs and maintenance to keep them safe for both players and spectators of all levels – from professional stadiums to community and school facilities. Our typically damp weather makes for slippery fields, wrought with torn up turf and weather worn seating. With unsafe facilities and pitches that cannot be used, the issues of crime, drug abuse, poor health from lack of exercise, lower educational achievements, and social isolation are issues of main concern.

How

Through generous investment, we have transformed local and professional sports facilities throughout the UK from broken, beat down condition to new. Nearly 1700 schools have new football facilities, almost 690 pavilions have been updated, and more than 350 artificial turf pitches have been built through our grassroots efforts. We have helped fund floodlighting for pitches so people can use the facilities more during the dark winter evenings, and turned old, dangerous professional stadia into world-class arenas. Through over 2,700 community initiatives, we have used football as a venue to combat drugs, crime, social, health, and educational issues in the UK. Facility improvement creates opportunity for physical and social enrichment and brings our communities together.

Who

The Football Foundation (TFF) is the United Kingdom’s largest sports charity. We are funded by The Football Association, the Premier League, and the Government through Sport England by the Department for Culture, Media, and Sport. Our mission throughout England is “to improve facilities, create opportunities and build communities.”

TFF roots were established in July 2000. Chief Executive, Paul Thorogood, began working with TFF in 2006 after 30 years of service in the Royal Air Force. Thorogood, a Kings College London and University of Warwick alumni, is an avid sports enthusiast with a prevailing passion for football in both playing and administrative capacities. Thorogood and TFF are supported and directed by competent staff, Board of Trustees, partners, and the Facilities Assessment Panel.

Footnotes: Sports, Health