



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**  
OF LAKE TAHOE

## *Building Bright Futures Campaign* *Our children, our community.*

*The Boys & Girls Club of Lake Tahoe meets a critical community need. Working families depend on childcare that is safe, affordable, and enriching. To ensure the Club remains in our community we are building a facility of our own to enable us to serve more families with safe, quality programming and character-building relationships for generations to come. Construction is underway. Occupancy depends on fundraising. Please help us finish the building!*

### **A Place to BECOME: The Boys & Girls Club of Lake Tahoe**

Imagine a place where who you are, where you're from, or the circumstances that surround you don't determine your **access to experiences or opportunities**. Across the nation, that place is the Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA). Here in South Tahoe it is the Boys & Girls Club of Lake Tahoe.

In the USA, 15 million children have nowhere to go after school<sup>1</sup> or during vacations. They are at risk of being unsupervised, unguided, and/or unsafe.

Children and teens in the Lake Tahoe basin are not immune to the challenges faced by youths nationwide. The Boys & Girls Club of Lake Tahoe (BGCLT) is uniquely positioned to address the enormous challenges faced by the young people in the Tahoe basin. Tahoe is known to some as 'poverty with a view' and although the Club serves working families, still 72% of our members come from low and moderate income families. Rising house prices and living costs means that many of our local workers struggle to make ends meet and the ability to work depends on the Club. The Club enables families to work, while also ensuring that the next generation has the opportunity to become active and skilled members of our community and workforce.

In 1990, **community leaders recognized the region's economic and social well-being depended upon working families who need affordable childcare**. In 1991, the Boys & Girls Club of Lake Tahoe was founded to fill the gap between school and home. Guided by a mission to empower all young people to reach their full potential, the Club is **the only out-of-school program in the South Tahoe area that operates five days per week, year round, and accepts boys and girls aged four to 18 years old**, providing a holistic approach to supporting our community's youth.

Prior to the pandemic, the Club was helping an average of 320 children a day participate in homework help, reading programs, science projects, sports and games; and **building supportive relationships with peers and caring adults**.



As part of our general summer and vacation programming, the Club also provides a wide array of camps and field trips that build resiliency and relationship skills, confidence, and broadens youths' horizons through fun experiences, while integrating a daily hour of academics to prevent the summer brain drain.

**Since the pandemic and the closure of the schools**, the Club has stayed open for full days; facilitating over 700 hours of online school for EACH member, providing over 15,000 FREE meals and helping over 200 families to continue to work. We are proud of the part we played in assisting in the educational, emotional and financial needs of our children and families.

But while regulations are relaxing, many of the problems of the pandemic remain. The Club will play a huge part in rebuilding the resiliency of our children, helping them to escape their screens and re-engage with peers, recreation, art and music. Furthermore, the cost of living in Tahoe has escalated dramatically in the past year and many families are facing rent hikes or eviction. In these uncertain times, the Club is a place of consistency, help and structure and it is vital that we ensure we are here for our community as the struggles continue.

## Impacting Futures



The Club is proud to be a place for ALL children and the diversity of our members speaks to the quality of our programs and our reputation for safe and fun activities. But we know that often our greatest impact is upon the kids who need it most.

At seven years old, Josh was holding responsibilities that a child twice his age should not bear. An absent father and alcoholic mother led to eight year old Josh and his younger brother being placed in foster care. As Josh says, *"My foster mom signed us up for the Club and my life changed forever."* Through his experiences at the Club, Josh learned that he could be a child, begin to trust others, and feel the compassion and love of those around him. *"The Club has taught me I can have a positive life, that I can do anything I want to if I work hard enough at it,"* stated Josh, adding, *"as I look back...to the childhood I missed out on, I am here before you because I chose the right path instead of a path that may have been destined for me. The outcome that the Club has on me will be everlasting."*

Josh is just one of countless youths, from all backgrounds, who have discovered the best version of themselves at BGCLT.



## **Affordability**

Families in Tahoe continue to be squeezed for rents and living costs without wages keeping pace. Fulfilling on our mission to reach youths of all economic strata, BGCLT works diligently to keep Club membership fees low. **BCGLT receives NO FUNDING from the national organization.** All operational costs are earned locally through fundraisers, grants and donations. Membership fees only cover a fraction of the operational costs and many families receive some form of discount.

In addition to being the most affordable option, the Club is also the only option for many families. There are no other, year-round, Monday through Friday, all grades, out-of-school programs, and for parents who work full-time the Club is the only organization that meets their needs. Consequently, at peak, there has been a **wait list of more than 70 families** for the after-school and vacation programs at both Club sites.

## **Opening Doors to Bright Futures**

**Since our beginning in 1991, we have held the dream of having a safe, state-of-the-art purpose-built building to fully serve our Club kids and their families.** While the Al Tahoe School building, in which the main Club currently operates, has served its purpose, the 1950's school building has worn infrastructure and other significant deficiencies that restrict safe, quality programming and access to technology.

In 2016, BGCLT was informed that we needed to look for new premises as the Al Tahoe School was needed by the District for their own programs. While we have managed to hold on for an additional five years, Lake Tahoe Unified School District (LTUSD) is re-opening the site as the home of their new Elevated School this summer.

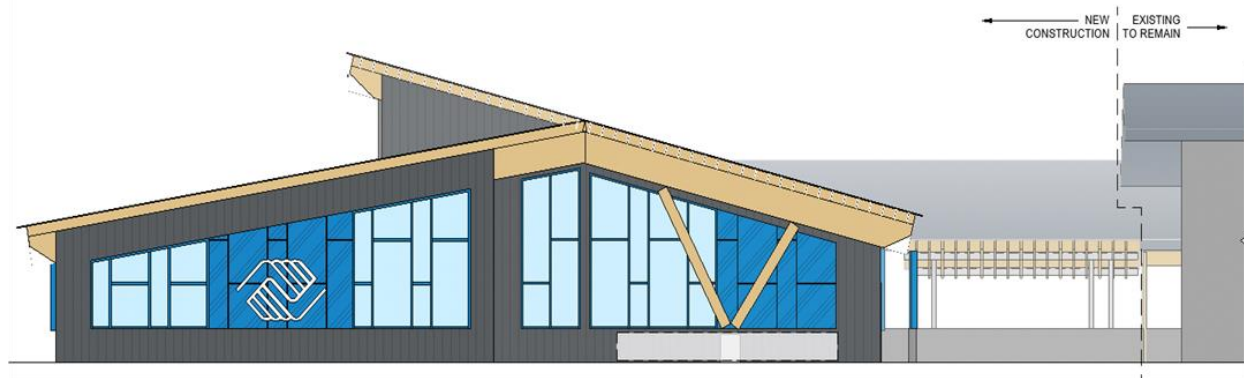
Initially, BGCLT pursued a number of options, including opening a facility in the new Recreation Center (Measure P), and approaching El Dorado County for land. However, none of these options ultimately filled the community need or met the goal of having a safe, state-of-the-art, purpose-built facility **owned and managed by the Club** for the benefit of our members and the community.

Fortunately, in 2018 the Lake Tahoe Unified School District agreed to a **50 year, renewable land lease at the Al Tahoe site.** Concurrently, Lisa Maloff, the Angel of Tahoe, generously committed a gift of \$3 million toward the project, **offering an incentive to the community to contribute the remaining funds** in order to realize the vision of the Club having a long term home in which to serve our community's youth.



## BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF LAKE TAHOE

The new BGCLT building is designed to meet the specific needs of Club members, their families, Club volunteers, and staff. For youths attending, it will be a transformational and inspirational place designed especially for them. To other nonprofit service organizations, the new building will offer a space to collaborate in service of our community's youth and families.



The 12,000 square foot building is adjacent to the Al Tahoe School facility and includes the following amenities:

- A 1,076 square foot Science Technology Engineering and Math (**STEM**)/**Maker's Space** will enable Club kids to explore their creativity while learning valuable career and technical skills.
- A dedicated **Art Room** will provide 1,040 square feet for some of Club kids' favorite activities, including fine arts, ceramics and multi-media.
- **Three Breakout Rooms** will provide spaces for homework and specialist programs.
- An **Early Years Room** will support youngest Club members with social and emotional programs tailored to their needs.
- A **Teen Room** providing a dedicated space for teens to relax, listen to music and socialize and access to a teen-only bathroom.
- **Quiet Spaces** supporting one-on-one attention and small group work.
- **Meeting room** for Club meetings and accessible to community groups.
  
- **Dedicated Club Kid restrooms** separate from staff and volunteer restrooms.
- **Entry Foyer** will be welcoming to families and guests, but also secure to ensure the safety of Club members, staff, and volunteers.
- **Hot desks** for volunteers and nonprofit service organizations to convene and collaborate.
- **Program Staff Offices** with visibility to Club member spaces.
- **Shower, washer and dryer** for Club member emergencies and accidents.
- **Dedicated Medical area** for treatment and supervision of sick children.



The building is being built to Department of State Architecture and Tahoe Regional Planning Authority guidelines, along with being fully ADA compliant and meeting the latest environmental regulations.

The Club building will feature abundant natural lighting and natural earth tones for a calming environment. Tight security measures will be integrated, with restricted access and safety technology such as remote lockdown and keypad entry. The Club design is forward looking, with standing tables – to burn those extra calories and create a more mobile program environment – and smart technology in every room.

The meeting room, the office hot desk and other areas of the Club will be available to other nonprofits and service organizations at no or low cost, with community use also available outside of regular Club hours.

LTUSD has agreed to the Club’s continued use of the Al Tahoe School kitchen and multi-purpose room, enabling us to continue our highly popular and much needed **free snack and supper program, which is accessible to any youth in the community.**

Importantly, the design of the building will enable us to **accommodate more members and to significantly reduce our wait list, helping more children to reach their full potential, assisting working families, and contributing to the economic growth of the South Tahoe community.**

**We broke ground on our building in June 2020.** The total project cost is \$6.9 million including the building, fixtures, furnishings, and technology. Ongoing maintenance and utility costs are accounted for in our operations business model but we know costs will only continue to rise. The campaign includes an endowment component to support the Club’s ongoing maintenance and facilities needs.

<b>Project Costs</b>	
Design and Engineering	\$456,001
Construction Costs	\$5,909,667
Planning, Permitting, and Other Fees	\$455,001
Fixtures, Furniture, Equipment	\$55,001
Technology	\$45,000
Supplies	\$2,000
<b>Project Total</b>	<b>\$6,922,670</b>
<b>Endowment</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>
<b>TOTAL NEED</b>	<b>\$7,918,005</b>



As of June 2021, BGCLT has already secured \$6.1 million in philanthropic support, thanks to the generosity of a handful of individuals and years of building fundraising by the Board. We are inviting the community to support the Club's **"Building Bright Futures Campaign"** so we can finish the building!

Donors will have the option of making a five-year pledge to the capital campaign and will be recognized for their support. Naming rights will be offered to donors making pledges of certain levels.

**With your support, we will finish the building and enable more children to reach their full potential**, while supporting South Lake Tahoe's working families. **Please join us.**

*To learn more about the Boys & Girls Club of Lake Tahoe, visit [www.bgclt.org](http://www.bgclt.org).*

