

Building Expansion Contact:

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BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF OSHKOSH

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh Looks for
Community Support for \$16 Million-Dollar Building Expansion**

{Oshkosh, WI} – The Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh has served the community for over 50 years by keeping to its mission of improving the lives of children and families. In the last few years, the number of kids the Club serves has been growing. Currently, over 800 children use Club services each day and the average daily attendance has been up 70%. With the Club at capacity, the building located at 501 E. Parkway Ave. in Oshkosh will be undergoing a \$16 million-dollar expansion in order to better serve the needs of children and families. Over the last year, the Club purchased 12 houses along Monroe St. in preparation for the building expansion project.

The 5-part capital project, led by contractor and long-time friend CR Meyer, will include an expansion of the classroom space in the Radford Center side of the building (ages 6-10) that will double the number of children the classrooms can serve to 80. The Club's current Teen Center will be renovated along with the current administrative offices to double the middle school program space (ages 10-12). A new addition will include a second-floor teen space (for ages 13-18) separate from the elementary and middle school age children, a new administrative wing, and a community center for other local agencies to come together and collaborate to better serve families. A second gym and a new outdoor space, including a new playground, a courtyard, and an all-purpose field, will be added to better accommodate the 300 plus children the Club serves daily. With the new expansion, the Club will be able to serve an additional 150 youth daily.

"It has been 18 years since our last major capital campaign building project," said Mark Lasky, campaign chair and board member at Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh. The Boys and Girls Club of Oshkosh continues to meet the needs of children and families in our community and serve as stewards of the public's trust in us. This expansion project will allow us to collaborate with existing agencies with expertise and create self-sustaining skills and resources for the kids and families we impact."

The Club serves about 1,800 children each year through direct service and is one of the largest agencies in Oshkosh that provides basic needs to Club members and their families. The Club provides onsite showers, clothing support, hygiene supply support, back-to-school support, rental and bill assistance, meals, mental health services, and more, all for an annual fee of only \$25 per child. The goal is to make sure families who are receiving these services are then working their way to self-sufficiency.

Each summer, the Club has a waiting list of over 100 kids. A second site was added in 2020 at Peace Lutheran Church, but the Club continues to have a waiting list. The Club currently has after-school programming in 14 schools including Omro. Last year, the Club opened two new after-school programs in Oshkosh Area School District, a program at South Park Middle School and North High School, and added a staff member for the Be Great Graduate mentoring

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program at West High School. In addition, the Club partnered with the Omro School District and added an after-school and summer program for elementary school age children where allowing the Club to serve 100 more children.

“This is going to be a transformational project, not just for the kids and families we serve, but for many others in the community that will use the services provided by the Club and the other organizations who will be located in the new building’s community center, said Tracy Ogden, CEO at Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh. “Now is the time when we’re looking to the community, who has always rallied behind us, to support us in this next important phase for the Club.”

To support the children that need the Club the most, the Club buses children from full after-school care sites within the Oshkosh School District to the Club after-school. While adding sites is always amazing for the kids you support, the Club added bus routes to transport kids from full after-school care sites: Emmeline Cook, Oaklawn, Read, and Washington elementary schools, Merrill, Tipler, and Webster middle schools, and Oshkosh North and Oshkosh West high schools. Transportation allows another 128 kids to get services at the Club each week.

“This is a historic milestone for the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh and the capital campaign that will positively impact the life of our community,” said Jeff Trembly, board president at Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh. “With the needed space and resources, we will fuel partnerships and collaborations across the spectrum to help kids, teens, and families to overcome everyday challenges and obstacles they routinely face. Our work is ongoing as we still need to raise the final portion of our goal. Therefore, if you haven’t already made a gift or pledge, I urge you to support this project with whatever amount you can. No gift is too small.”

The Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh is grateful to those that have stepped forward so far, including the City of Oshkosh, to get us to this point where we can go public with our building project campaign.

For tours of the Club or to make a gift contact CEO, Tracy Ogden, at (920) 233-1414 ext. 116 or tracyo@bgcosh.org. Gifts to the building project can also be made online at bgcosh.org. We welcome community visitors and encourage you to tour our Club and see first-hand how on a daily basis we are changing and improving the lives of children in our community. We plan to do Whatever It Takes to continue our mission of improving the lives of children and families, and with your help we can make it happen.

About the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh: For over 50 years, the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh has provided young people with a safe place to learn and grow and currently serves over 3,000 local youth through membership and outreach. The Club offers a dynamic learning environment that includes many age-appropriate programs, mentoring by caring adult professionals and outstanding facilities, all for an annual fee of only \$25 per child. By providing safe facilities, caring adults, and engaging activities, we help each young person realize their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

For more information on the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh, please contact the Club at (920) 233-1414, visit the Club online at bgcosh.org or find the Club on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or YouTube (@BGCOsh).

As always, the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh is a United Way Agency.

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