



2025



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF ELMA, MARILLA, & WALES

GRATITUDE REPORT





A Message from the Executive Director

As I reflect on this past year at the Boys & Girls Club of Elma, Marilla & Wales, I am filled with gratitude—for our young people who show up each day with curiosity and courage, for our staff who create safe and joyful spaces, and for the families, board members, donors, and community partners who stand beside us in this work.

What remains constant, even though challenges, is the belief in the power of this place. When a child walks through our doors, they are met with encouragement, opportunity, and people who genuinely care about who they are and who they are becoming. This year, our kids tried new things, built confidence, and formed connections that will shape their futures—because they had a safe place to grow.

None of this would be possible without your support. Every donation, volunteer hour, partnership, and show of belief strengthens

our mission and invests directly in the futures of the children we serve. Thank you for being part of our story and for helping change lives every single day. Because of your support, the Club remains the positive place where our community's next chapter begins.

Maintaining a safe, modern, and welcoming facility is essential to the experiences we provide every day. Recent improvements—and future plans like the gym floor replacement and games room redesign—reflect our long-term commitment to creating spaces where kids can play, learn, and thrive safely for years to come.

Sincerely,

Tracey Karp-Theal

Tracey Karp-Theal

Executive Director

Boys & Girls Club of Elma, Marilla, & Wales

Staff

Tracey Karp-Theal
Executive Director

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Program Director

Isabelle Peppers
Resource Dev. Director

Warren Lippert
Office Manager

Brad Gee
SACC Director

Sam Coatsworth
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Matthew Renzi

The Club is like my second home. I love coming here every day, and the staff are always so kind and helpful. I love doing art projects in the craft room, hanging out with my friends, and joining in on all the fun events.

—BRYNN, 5TH GRADE

Our Mission

To inspire and empower all young people, especially those who need us most, to **realize their full potential** as productive, responsible, and caring citizens.

Core Values & Guiding Principles

Safety

We commit to creating a physically and emotionally safe environment where every child feels protected, valued, and supported. Safety is our top priority, and every decision we make reflects that responsibility.

Respect

We treat every member, family, staff member, and community partner with dignity and kindness. We model respect through our words, actions, and daily interactions.

Inclusivity & Belonging

We welcome all young people, embracing diversity of backgrounds, abilities, identities, and experiences. Every child deserves to feel seen, accepted, and included.

Integrity

We uphold honesty, transparency, and accountability in everything we do. Trust and trustworthiness is the foundation of our relationships with families, partners, and our community.

Compassion & Empathy

We lead with heart. We listen, respond with understanding, and care deeply about the well-being of every member and their family.



Youth Development

We believe every young person has limitless potential. We support their social, emotional, academic, and physical development through programs that inspire curiosity, build skills, and promote lifelong learning.

Leadership & Responsibility

We encourage youth to take initiative, build confidence, and develop a strong moral compass. We model responsible behavior and hold ourselves to the highest professional standards.

Community Collaboration

We value strong partnerships with schools, families, community groups, and local leaders. Together, we strengthen the support system that surrounds every child.

Excellence & Innovation

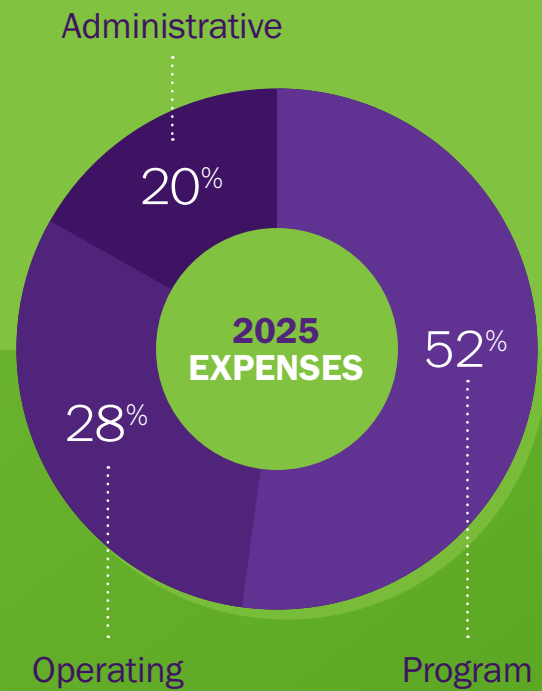
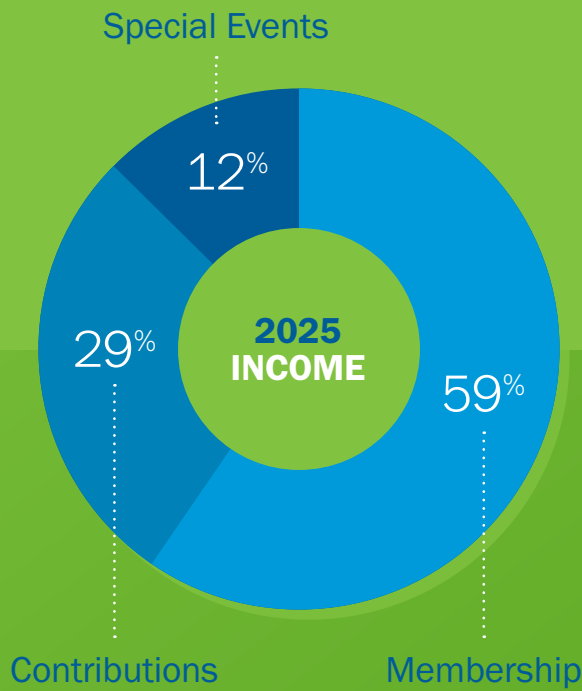
We strive for continuous improvement by seeking new ideas, best practices, and creative approaches to elevate our programs and enhance the member experience.

Fun with Purpose

We know learning thrives in a joyful environment. We create spaces where kids can play, explore, laugh, and build lasting memories while becoming their best selves.



2025 Income & Expenses



Program Achievements

Serving Over 800 Youth Across the Community

This year, the Club provided safe, consistent, and impactful programming for over 800 members, offering a positive environment during the hours youth need us most.

Record-Breaking Summer Camp Enrollment

Our Summer Day Camp welcomed more than 350 campers, making it one of our largest and most successful seasons to date. Campers participated in enriching activities that built confidence, friendships, and healthy habits.

High Levels of Family & Community Engagement

Through family nights, special events, Trunk-or-Treat, seasonal celebrations, and volunteer opportunities, we engaged hundreds of families, creating connections that build trust and strengthen our Club community.

Improved Safety, Facilities, & Program Spaces

Upgrades to the dance studio, games room, technology areas, and safety infrastructure ensured members have a secure, welcoming place to learn and play. Continued implementation of BGCA & NYS safety standards remains one of our greatest accomplishments.

Growth in Sports & Recreation Programs

Flag football, basketball, movement classes, and daily recreation time continued to expand—encouraging teamwork, leadership, sportsmanship, and healthy lifestyles.

Dedicated & Growing Staff Team

Investments in staff training, leadership development, and onboarding strengthened program quality and enhanced youth outcomes.

Member Spotlight



YOUTH OF THE YEAR **Olivia**

Olivia has been a dedicated member of the Boys & Girls Club of EMW for over seven years. As she grew older, Olivia demonstrated exceptional leadership, commitment, and passion and became a **role model for her peers through her extracurriculars and school clubs**. Her journey reflects the values and impact that the Boys & Girls Club had on her, and she looks forward to continuing to inspire others on her path to success.



BOY OF THE YEAR
Mason

Mason's **positive attitude, leadership, and genuine care for others** reflects his character, dedication, and the impact he makes on our Club community. He is a shining example of what it means to lead with heart.



GIRL OF THE YEAR
Brynn

Brynn's **confidence, kindness, and leadership shine through** in everything she does. She is always willing to lend a helping hand and encourage others, making a meaningful impact on our Club community.



Jerry | Age 13

Jerry is known for his **dependability, honesty, and willingness to help anyone who needs it**—staff, younger members, or peers.



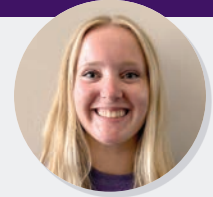
Sutton | Age 7

Sutton **always jumps in to help without being asked**—whether she's tidying up after an activity, supporting a friend, or lending a helping hand to staff.



Scotty | Volunteer

Scotty never forgets a name, always greets you with a warm handshake, & **makes everyone feel welcome** the moment they walk through the door.



Hannah | Staff

Hannah's growth is a powerful reflection of what the Club is all about—**nurturing potential, building leaders, & creating pathways** for young people to thrive.

YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

VOLUNTEER & STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Facility Improvements & Future Goals

This year, the Boys & Girls Club of Elma, Marilla & Wales remained focused on maintaining a safe, welcoming, and engaging facility for our 800+ members. As we continue to grow, improving our program spaces and preparing for future capital needs remains a core priority.



Completed & Ongoing Maintenance

Several important preventive maintenance projects were completed or initiated this year to ensure the continued safety and efficiency of our building, including **exterior lighting upgrades, gym lighting replacements, sidewalk repairs, and necessary front entrance door adjustments**. These improvements help preserve our facility and maintain a secure environment for all youth.

Games Room Redesign

A major highlight of our upcoming facility improvements is the Games Room redesign, scheduled for completion in Spring 2026. This project will update one of our most heavily used program spaces and create a **more modern, flexible, and engaging environment** for our members.

Gym Floor Replacement

Looking forward, one of our largest anticipated capital projects is the replacement of the gym floor, with an estimated cost of \$150,000–\$200,000. As the heart of our sports and recreation programming, an upgraded gym floor will ensure a **safer, higher-quality experience for all youth who participate in athletics, fitness, and large-group activities**.

Commitment to a Strong Future

These improvements reflect our **long-term commitment to strengthening our facility**, expanding opportunities for youth, and ensuring we remain a safe, vibrant, and inspiring place for generations to come.

I love the Club because the staff are so nice and we get to play tons of fun games. My favorite thing to do is make crafts, and I want to be a staff member when I grow up.

—LIZZIE, 3RD GRADE



Why This Place Matters When School Ends

Between 3–6pm, the Boys & Girls Club becomes a lifeline for families. It's when homework gets finished, friendships are built, and kids are surrounded by adults who care—giving parents peace of mind during the busiest hours of the day.

What Kids Are Learning



How to confidently ask for help



How to try something new and stick with it



How to lose a game and still believe in themselves



How to belong, show kindness, and cultivate lasting friendships

Because of Your Support:

Our members are building the confidence, skills, and friendships that will shape their future

More than 60 families received financial aid for their children to attend the Club

Trained Staff were able to meet kids where they are—emotionally and academically

Our building became safer and more welcoming for everyone

Kids like Mason & Brynn were supported, encouraged, and inspired to believe in themselves.

Members explored STEM activities that sparked curiosity and introduced them to future careers

Tales from the Club

One afternoon, a young member arrived at the Club visually upset and withdrawn. School had been hard that day, and by the time they walked through our doors, they were carrying more than a backpack. A staff member noticed right away and quietly sat with them during snack time—no questions at first, just presence.

As the afternoon went on, that child slowly rejoined the group. They finished their homework, played a game in the gym, and ended the day laughing with friends. Before leaving, they stopped, turned back to the staff member, and said simply, “Thanks for not giving up on me today.”

It was a small moment—easy to miss—but it's one that captures the heart of the Boys & Girls Club. Every day, kids come to us carrying different challenges. What they find here is consistency, patience, and people who show up for them no matter what kind of day they've had. Sometimes, that's what makes all the difference.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF ELMA, MARILLA, & WALES



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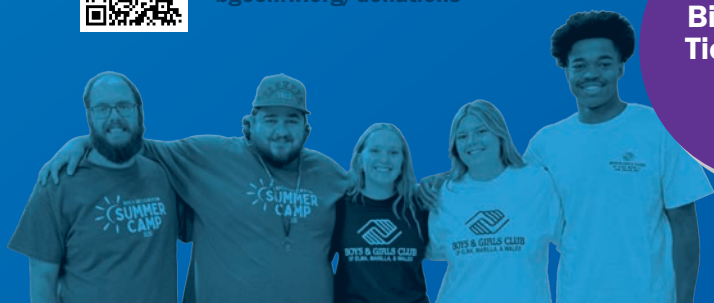
We're Grateful for Your Support Throughout 2025!

MORE WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

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bgcemw.org/donations



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June

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Ticket Raffle**
July

**Alumni
Summer Bash**
August

**Trunk
or Treat**
October