

CONTINUED GROWTH

A PLACE TO GO, A WAY TO GROW.





LETTER TO OUR COMMUNITY

January 2021

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Robert Puricelli

Whew! We sure are tired of these unprecedented times, aren't you? This past fiscal year (FY20: July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020) has been a blur of stress, pivots and preparing for the unknown, which is nearly impossible. One thing we know for sure is that there will always be children in need of our programs, and one thing we can always count on is that the GSGBC community will rise to a challenge and succeed.

We are incredibly proud of our team's dynamic COVID response and hard work to strengthen our endeavors to support youth from South Saint Louis' under-resourced neighborhoods. Adapting to the new normal, we came together amidst the obstacles and hardships caused by the pandemic to meet the evolving needs of our community.

GSGBC emerged as a community leader in this effort. Our leadership team participated in weekly calls with Mayor Krewson's Office, City of St. Louis Health Department, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, St. Louis Public Schools, YMCA, Herbert Hoover Boys & Girls Club, and more to collaborate on actions to address challenges caused by the pandemic including kids not being able to attend school and how to interpret/comply with CDC guidelines to offer safe environments for our youth.

We were able to help meet the needs of hungry children by serving meals to our kids on weekday mornings. We partnered with Mayor Krewson's office and St. Louis Public Schools and became an official Pandemic Meal Distribution site in Soulard & Dutchtown.

We also were able to create a Virtual Learning Center, where 54 youth worked in six dedicated learning spaces, each outfitted with the best of technology, computers, learning tools, and our professional and passionate staff to support them.

Unfortunately, GSGBC did not emerge from FY20 unscathed. Our deficit reached more than \$500,000 for a couple of reasons: 1) Because of the pandemic, we were forced to move the Golf Classic fundraiser to August (into a different fiscal year) and 2) The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan we received through the CARES Act requires the funding to remain as a liability on our books until FY21 (different fiscal year). In spite of these issues, we continue to be financially strong.

In a year of so many challenges, we have to acknowledge you, our donors and supporters. Without your faithful backing and involvement, none of these amazing responses to the pandemic would have been possible. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for helping us continue our mission to provide, expand, and present comprehensive youth development programs for the children and families in South St. Louis during the most difficult of times. We will get through this together.

With deepest appreciation,

Handwritten signature of Andrew P. Blassie in black ink.

Andrew Blassie
President

Handwritten signature of Robert Puricelli in black ink.

Robert Puricelli
Executive Director

DUTCHTOWN EXPANSION

THE NEED

Parents, social service agencies, elected officials, and kids have voiced the need for comprehensive youth services in the Dutchtown Neighborhood. This area of South St. Louis is challenged by an abundance of youth and a lack of youth development programs to empower them with the skills and attitudes needed to graduate from high school and achieve long-term success. These youth are especially vulnerable to systemic challenges that lead to increased rates of violence and academic failure.

THE PROJECT

Although the pandemic delayed progress on renovations to the Dutchtown campus, we've launched a soft opening in March 2021. We are so excited to welcome new members to our renovated, hundred-year-old school building, where we can eventually provide a safe and supportive space for 280 children through our Afterschool and Summer Programs. We believe that our programs are capable of playing a crucial role in the stabilization of Dutchtown through comprehensive youth development to help kids escape the cycle of poverty.

DUTCHTOWN EXPANSION

THE PIVOT

Because of the pandemic, GSGBC sought creative ways to help our community. We partnered with Mayor Krewson's office and St. Louis Public Schools to serve as an official Pandemic Meal Distribution site. Although the Dutchtown Campus was not yet open to our members, we were able to use part of the building to distribute meals while construction continued. We're extremely grateful that the community welcomed us and allowed us to have an impact during this difficult time.



THANK YOU TO THE GENEROUS SUPPORTERS OF THIS PROJECT



City of St. Louis
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

City of St. Louis Mayor **Lyda Krewson**
& 25th Ward Alderman **Shane Cohn**

81st District State Representative **Steve Butz**
& 5th District State Senator **Jamilah Nasheed**



WELCOME!



Earl Strauther joined our staff as the Director of Operations. His main responsibilities include managing all day-to-day operations of both locations, monitoring overall agency policies and procedures, managing agency finances

and accounting, and helping to strategically plan for and realize growth opportunities and operational efficiencies. He brings to the job more than 30 years of experience in corporate, government, pastoral, and nonprofit work. Earl is a KU Graduate Fellow in Executive Leadership and serves as the Chairman of the St. Louis City Planning Commission and co-chairman of the UNCF Leadership Council. He also enjoys graphic arts, golf, and cooking. He earned an MS in Organizational Leadership and Administration from Concordia University.

Deborah Taylor joined our staff as the Director of Programs. Her main responsibilities include oversight of all programs to ensure alignment with the strategic plan; managing program compliance, assessment, and improvement; and overseeing youth membership. She brings to the job decades of experience in youth development that span faith-based communities, public schools, community-based agencies, government, and the nonprofit sector. Deborah serves on the Missouri Afterschool Network board as the Vice Chair of the Public Policy & Awareness Committee and is a Women of Virtue Engaging the Nation board member. She is also active in her church and enjoys line dancing, gardening, reading, and travel. She earned a BS in Elementary Education from Harris Stowe State University.



MEETING NEEDS IN A CRISIS

There's nothing like a global pandemic to test an organization's agility. The novel Coronavirus hit in mid-March and forced us to re-evaluate the way we served our community. Fortunately, we were able to receive significant financial support for our COVID-19 response through the CARES Act. Specifically, through a Community Development Block Grant award from the City of St. Louis Community Development Administration and a grant from the Missouri Department of Economic Development (both CARES funded).

During this time, we found creative methods to serve our children. One example is the Virtual Learning Center we originated. With SLPS making the decision to shift the 2020-21 school year to 100% virtual, GSGBC led the way to provide youth with reliable technology in a structured and safe environment.

In addition, while many organizations across the country were laying off employees, we were able to retain all staff, including hourly employees, and continue paying everyone throughout lockdown. This was possible because of the government grants and the generous backing of our strong network of supporters.





CLUB 54

For the fourth year, generous donors got down to the funkadelic sound and four-on-the-floor beats of disco at Club 54. Thank you once again to all the sponsors, guests, and volunteers who got their groove on to support our mission. It was a night spent celebrating the children in our community, growth in our organization, and an exciting future.





28TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Although this year's pandemic required some changes and precautions like holding a virtual auction and allowing only one golfer per cart, GSGBC hosted its 28th Annual Golf Classic on August 3 at Norwood Hills Country Club. More than 175 supporters participated and raised more than \$400,000 to support the mission of GSGBC and to empower its members to reach their potential and break the cycle of poverty. Thanks again to all of our wonderful golfers, volunteers, and honored guests!



PILLAR SOCIETY

Thank you for helping us fulfill our mission to empower girls and boys in the St. Louis metropolitan area, especially those who need us most, to realize their physical, intellectual, and emotional potential.

CITIZENSHIP

\$25,000 + ANNUALLY

Anders CPAs + Advisors
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ARCO Construction
Centene
City of St. Louis, Youth at Risk Grant Program
Community Development Agency CBDG Program
Dana Brown Charitable Trust
The Dave & Barbara Mungenast Foundation
First Bank
Jeff Garlich and Jill Slay Garlich
Gene and Joan Slay Charitable Foundation
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Marillac Mission Fund
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Polar Tank and Trailer
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Slay Industries
Gary Slay
Guy Slay
St. Louis Mental Health Board
Anonymous

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Ullico Management Company
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TRUSTWORTHINESS

\$1,000-\$2,499

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Lonnie & Eileen Conran-Folks
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Timothy Dew
Ben Dewan
Doreen Dodson & Dana Spitzer
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Total Quality Logistics
Tri-County Labor Legislative Club
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Bob Westrich
Becky Young & Sherry Brendel

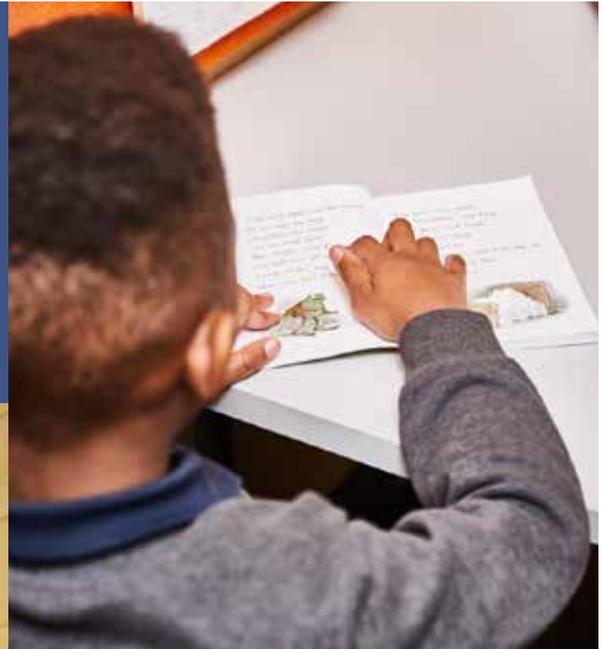


BY THE NUMBERS

47 Enrolled in the Summer Program

162 Afterschool Members Pre-Pandemic

49 Enrolled in Virtual Learning/Afterschool Fall 2020



428

YOUTH SERVED

**COVID-19 significantly reduced the number served this year*

37,348

MEALS WERE SERVED

(Including more than 25,000 meals delivered to families in need due to COVID-19)



70% Report Improvement of Reading Skills

94% Report Feeling Safe at GSGBC



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020



Contributions	\$469,458
Other Events (Net)	\$155,514
Grants/Foundation	\$229,737
United Way of Greater St. Louis	\$218,864
Banking & Investment Income	\$87,032
Programs	\$8,980
Miscellaneous	\$50,400
Donated Goods & Services	\$129,830
28th Annual Golf Classic (Net)	\$0

Total **\$1,349,815**



Program Expenses	\$1,142,381
Administrative Expense	\$487,632
Development Expense	\$220,593

Total **\$1,850,606**

The 28th Annual Golf Classic was rescheduled to August, falling in FY21. This event netted more than \$250,000, which would have reduced our deficit significantly. Another factor was our Payroll Protection Program loan. This loan will be forgiven, but it remains a liability on the FY20 books. Taking those into account, GSGBC would have posted only a modest deficit (or even a slight surplus) for FY20.



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SUCCESS STORY

Korey is a thirteen-year-old who joined GSGBC when he was 8 years old. Throughout his time here, Korey has been a fixture on the GSGBC basketball court, and he has never seen a three-point shot he didn't think he could make. His precocious spirit would push him to take on the biggest challenges available, challenging any staff member who walked through the gym to a game of one-on-one.

Over time, GSGBC staff noticed a pattern where Korey would ignore other children in favor of attaching himself to adults. Consulting with GSGBC's Trauma-Informed Care Specialist, our team learned that Korey lives with his grandmother, and he regularly grapples with feelings of abandonment. Seeking out adults to challenge was one of his ways of coping.

GSGBC staff encouraged him to build friendships with his peers but didn't discourage him from seeking adult relationships. However, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Korey made a leap forward and has become a leader to the other kids at GSGBC. He regularly invites other children to play the socially distanced versions of basketball and soccer that have become the norm for our kids. Now, the younger children look up to Korey, and he takes time to make sure they feel included in games. Korey has found a place where he belongs and where he feels comfortable being himself and growing into a productive young adult.

