CONTINUED GROWTH

A PLACE TO GO, A WAY TO GROW.

2020 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY
LETTER TO OUR COMMUNITY

January 2021

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,

Andrew Blassie
President

Robert Puricelli
Executive Director
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 Mayor Lyda Krewson & 25th Ward Alderman Shane Cohn
81st District State Representative Steve Butz & 5th District State Senator Jamilah Nasheed
WELCOME!

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.

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.
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
ARCHS
Andy and Joanne Blassie
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
John & Michele Hopkins
Huntleigh McGehee

Amy & Stephen Levin
Marillac Mission Fund
Nestle’ Purina PetCare Company
Polar Tank and Trailer
Rebecca Rhineburger
Slay Industries
Guy Slay
St. Louis Mental Health Board
Anonymous

CARING
$15,000-$24,999
Incarnate Word Foundation
Eric M. Outlaw-Mangrove Foundation
Kenneth Mares
The Tracy Family Foundation

FAIRNESS
$10,000-$14,999
Charles Bratkowski
Haberberger Mechanical Contractors
Nancy Hawes
Margaret Heying
Jim & Meg Huber
Donna & Paul Kindl
John Schicker
Glen Slay

RESPONSIBILITY
$5,000-$9,999
Linda Aboussie
AT&T Missouri
Bank of O’Fallon
Bernal Chomeau
Brenner Tank
Steve Butz
Civil Design
Ed Finkelstein
Tom & Jane Fisher
Johnny Garlich
Greater St. Louis Book Fair
Italian Open
Keeley Companies
Daniel & Elena King
Eddie McVey of Maggie O’Briens
Seanna McGough
Jay Meersman
Norman J. Stupp Foundation
Novus International
Alex & Emily Oliver
Raineri Construction
John Scott
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet
Sterling Bank
Stifel
Greg & Mimi Twardowski

RESPECT
$2,500-$4,999
Alex & Alice Aboussie Family Foundation
Joyce Aboussie
Hank Bellina
John & Theresa Blaskiewicz
Scott Carothers
Chemline
City Lighting Products
The Clark Fox Family Foundation
Commerce Bank
Community Financial Advisors
Steve & Monica Covington
Brook Dubman
Craig Effan
Tony & Beata Gordon
Gori Law
Intaglio Creative
McKelvey Homes
Tom Meyer
Leo & Kathy Miceli
Mark Miller
Millstone Weber
Missouri Foundation for Health
Raymond Mungenast
Joseph Nassif
Oaktree Products
Mary Orris
Dr. John & Mary Peter
John & Nancy Ross
Saleebly & Associates
John Schicker
Jim & Ann Simon
Southeast Missouri State University
St. Louis Philanthropic Organization
Brad & Renee Stout
Eric Trelz of Armstrong Teasdale
Ullico Management Company
Michael Yates

TRUSTWORTHINESS
$1,000-$2,499
Alliance Technologies
Archford Capital Strategies
Ron & Ann Auer
Pat Blasie
The Buddy Fund
Carrollton Bank
Christmas Carols Association
Lonnie & Eileen Conran-Folks
Helen Costello
Mike Cowulich
Duane Daniels
Timothy Dew
Ben Dewan
Doreen Dodson & Dana Spitzer
Dave Mungenast St. Louis Honda
Jon Daniels
Jason Ellis
Gregg Flier
Jane & Brad Frick
Chris Garlich
Cynthia Gibson
Patricia Gibson
Gus’ Pretzel Shop
Mark Haberberger
Tim & Kathie Harris
Ray & Julie Harter
Thomas Helm, Jr.
Gregg & Laura Hollabaugh
HR Green
Ed & Marge Imo
John Kennedy Jr.
Richard & Lynn Klein
Lee Kling
Freilick Family Foundation
The Labor Tribune
Jim Lang
Janet & Michael Leigh
Jeff & Mary Ann Maier
Marco
Mardi Gras Foundation
The Marian Foundation
Vincent & Barbara Matteucci
Moneta Group
Old Newsboys Day
John & Kathy Peterson
Bob Puricelli
Marlene Puricelli
Mel Rector
Ross & Baruzzini
Daniel Schrader
Bill & Kate Schoenhard
Olivia Slay
Mike Souders
Bill & Robyn Streck
Dan & Andrea Tarlas
Total Quality Logistics
Tri-County Labor Legislative Club
David & Maureen Trompeter
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
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.
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.