



For Immediate Release  
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## **Summer Programs off to a Good Start for the Boys & Girls Club but Support Still Needed**

“The Boys & Girls Club of Lincoln/Lancaster County is off to a great start this summer,” according to Michelle Birkel, Executive Director. “We are only two weeks into our summer programs and we have already had to limit enrollment for new members. With over 230 youth enrolled at both the Park Middle School and North Star locations we are now full, which is a great challenge to have.”

Boys & Girls Clubs of Lincoln/Lancaster County is a non-profit dedicated to serving young people ages 6-18. The Club provides caring mentors, a safe place, and quality programs to ensure all kids have a great future. In Lincoln, the Club serves nearly 2,000 young people throughout the year, the majority being underserved members of the community. The Club relies on donations and support from the community to sustain operations.

During this year’s Give to Lincoln Day the community showed their renewed support for the Club. “With almost \$36,000 raised we nearly doubled what we raised during last year’s Give to Lincoln Day” said Birkel. “The funds raised from Give to Lincoln Day will go towards funding Club summer programs, and purchasing new games, tables, and toys for our Park Middle School location. Although Give to Lincoln Day was a great success, we still need the communities help. Volunteers and sustaining donors are critical to our continued operation. I encourage anyone interested in becoming a donor or volunteer to call our office at 402-261-1224 or visit our website at [www.lincolnbgc.org](http://www.lincolnbgc.org). When the Lincoln community becomes involved the better we can serve the community and help Lincoln’s Youth.”

### **About Boys & Girls Clubs of Lincoln/Lancaster County**

*For more than 12 years, Boys & Girls Clubs of Lincoln/Lancaster County’s (BGCL) mission is to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. BGCL is an accredited After-School Program that offers youth ages 6-18 academic support, evening meals and enrichment/recreational activities during non-school hours, Monday through Friday, twelve months a year. It is vitally important for youth to have a safe place to go during the high- risk after school hours and during the summer. Our program prioritizes outcomes in the areas of academic success, character and leadership, and healthy lifestyles. BGCL member’s need more beyond the regular school day to ensure future academic success. They need sustained, stable, positive relationships with caring adults. They need time to build trust in adults and out of school programming allows them extra time to build that trust with our staff. BGCL is a safe place to make attainable goals and provide opportunities to experience success when they reach goals. For more information on BGCL, visit [www.LincolnBGC.org](http://www.LincolnBGC.org) or contact us at 402-202-6040 or 402-261-1224.*

Photos to use provided by the Club: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/12HYUFpv-WVCXU9gtL47MUqGzgLerZjE-?usp=sharing>