



## **Mission Statement and Program Description**

*The mission of the Boys & Girls Club of Stamford is to Enable All Youth, Especially Those Who Need Us Most, to Reach Their Full Potential as Productive, Caring, and Responsible Citizens.*

The Boys & Girls Club of Stamford is requesting funding from the City of Stamford in FY 2017/2018 for both of our club sites in the city, the Mary C. Rich Clubhouse and the Yerwood Center to support personnel for our increased capacity, program supplies, and technology equipment. We are firm believers that all kids are unique individuals and therefore learn in different ways. With this philosophy in mind, we offer a variety of High Yield Learning Activities (HYLAs) designed to sharpen vital cognitive skills, reinforce the school-based skills being taught in the classroom, and provide unique learning strategies for our youth.

At the Yerwood Center, where we serve an average of 300 Kindergarten- Third Grade members daily. At the Mary C. Rich Clubhouse, we continue to provide programming and activities for over 250 fourth-twelfth graders daily. Throughout the course of the year we serve over 1,500 young members of our community- aiming to educate and help to build their futures. Over the last year we have also developed a night program for at-risk youth to address the rise in violence in the community. The 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter program provides a safe space for open gym, recreational activities and social-emotional development programming, and currently serves over 200 teens and young adults and expanding to include job skill training courses including culinary and youth services. Through our programming and community activities at Yerwood, the site is open from 10am to 11pm. The Boys & Girls Club of Stamford along with the City of Stamford has revived this location as a hub for the community, with community partners utilizing space including St. Joseph's Parenting Center, Clothes to Kids, Stamford Seniors, and Stamford Peace.

As of the close of 2016, we have 394 K-3 members registered at the Yerwood Center. Programming is emphasized on educational enrichment activities, with major programs including homework help, tutoring, and literacy. We also provide enrichment and recreational activities in the areas of art, gym, dance, science, access to our game room, and strategic cognitive building games including chess. Our Arts program harnesses a child's creativity and combines skills and patience in various activities of expression. We offer a variety of activities in the arts, from traditional art room options to African Drumming to Hip Hop and Ballroom dance. In the gym, we provide much needed physical activities which improve motor skills while teaching skills such sportsmanship, leadership, and teamwork. Congruently, we offer a Healthy Habits program which ties physical fitness and nutrition together to build a mindset of good choices. A daily snack program, special events, holiday parties and celebrations are also a part of our learning program.

Since the opening of the Yerwood Center in the fall of 2015 our membership in this age group has almost tripled. Due to the age group and the growing number of children we serve in this unit, we are

requesting funding to supplement staffing, supplies, and equipment. We open the building from 3-6pm Monday through Friday for the afterschool program and three nights a week for the at-risk youth programming, 5th Quarter, from 8pm-11pm. The evenings that the 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter program is not running, the gym and other spaces are rented out to help supplement the operational and utilities costs as well as to give space to other community youth serving groups, including Stamford Peace and Clothes to Kids. The 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter program has served over 200 teens and young adults since it began in response to the onslaught of violence in the West Side this past spring and summer. We have expanded the program from an open gym for a safe and recreational space to now providing social and emotional development programming, including parenting classes, workshops from St. Joseph's and Planned Parenthood, as well as job skills training including culinary and youth services. Without increased funding we will not be able to continue expanding this program to focus on re-engaging the at-risk youth and breaking the cycle of crime and academic disengagement.

We continue to provide services for grades 4-12 at the Mary C. Rich Clubhouse on Stillwater Ave. With the opening of the Yerwood Center we have been able to enhance our teen programs at this site. Space was a major obstacle as our populations continued to increase across all age groups. With extra space, we are able to increase our program offerings to our teen population, with the plan of opening a specific Teen Center through our Capital Campaign initiative. At this location we focus on three main areas: Academic Success, Character and Leadership, and Healthy Lifestyles. Academic Success includes homework help, individual and group tutoring, STEM programming, literacy and writing skill improvement, and more.

Beyond the academic realm, we offer Character and Leadership programming to promote the total development of the individual. Torch Club and Keystone Club are youth leadership programs open for our Middle School and High School members, respectively. Both groups provide programming about goal setting, self-esteem and perseverance, financial literacy, and college and career preparation. Each year we send dedicated members to Regional and National Conferences for both clubs. Also included in the Character and Leadership programming is Diplomas to Degrees (D2D) and Be Great, Graduate which focus on college and career preparation including college visits, SAT/ACT prep, FAFSA tutorials, etc.

Each weekend from October through May we hold "Middle School Nights" on Fridays and "Saturday Night Live" for high school members on Saturdays. These weekly events serve as a safe space for members to enjoy their weekends with friends. A range of activities are offered for our participants to choose from including a variety of sports, recreational, and enrichment programs. Our games room will provide weekly drop in activities along with a tournament style format with challenge matches in pool, air hockey, foosball and ping pong. Our fully equipped kitchen will be available for those interested in developing their culinary skills, practice safe kitchen skills, prepare a meal for their peers, and to learn to cook nutritious snacks to support a healthy lifestyle. In addition, we will provide digital arts programming with our Beat Box program which uses our teens' interest in music to involve them in activities such as music editing and composition.

Our teen members will also have the opportunity to participate in an organized intramural basketball league with referees controlling the game. The league will feature both a formal fall and spring schedule, along with an informal drop-in winter league format. This will provide the opportunity for our area teens who lack the resources for "pay to play" leagues or who are not among the elite players who make

tryout-based teams. Those youth who do participate in a winter basketball program will still have that opportunity, as our flexible schedule will not conflict with those programs. Additional group fitness opportunities will also include double dutch jump rope, drill team and other interest geared fitness activities.

For Healthy Lifestyles we provide programs such as SMART Moves, which uses a healthy habits curriculum to discuss nutrition, physical fitness, mental wellness, and healthy relationships. Our intramural sports leagues, which run all year, are also included under this facet as well.

The Boys & Girls Club has proudly served the Stamford community since 1927 and continues to expand services and capacity to impact even more youth each year. We are thankful for our strong community partnerships, including with the City of Stamford.



**Budget Request**

*Detailed budget narrative attached*

**Yerwood Unit**

Personnel	3 full-time employees, benefits included (\$40,000/each) 5 part-time employees, \$12hr x 20 hrs/wk x 40 weeks	\$168,000
Program Supplies	Afterschool programming, homework, reading, STEM, etc.	\$8,000
Equipment	Technology updates	\$20,000
		<b>\$196,000</b>

**Mary C. Rich Clubhouse**

Personnel	10 part-time employees x \$12/hr x 20hrs/wk x 40 weeks	\$96,000
Program Supplies	Homework room, teen night, middle school night, culinary program	\$8,000
Equipment	Technology updates	\$20,000
		<b>\$124,000</b>

**Total request from the City of Stamford for FY 2017/2018 \$320,000**



## **Budget Narrative**

### ***Yerwood Center: \$196,000***

Personnel- As our membership continues to grow in our new facility, we need to hire more staff to provide quality services to our members. Due to the age and number of youth in this facility, a tighter staff to member ratio is required for adequate supervision and communication. We need to hire three new full-time employees, each at \$40,000 including benefits to meet the demand of the afterschool and night programs. In addition, we also need to hire 5 part-time staff members who will work \$12/hr for 20 hours per week for 40 weeks a year. The total personnel request for Yerwood is \$168,000.

Program Supplies- To accommodate the increasing membership we need to increase our program supplies in all areas including the Reading Room, homework room, game room, gymnasium, kitchen, and science room. We have estimated \$8,000 for new supplies for our programs at Yerwood.

Equipment- The Yerwood Unit had no useable technology when we moved in. We are still trying to bring computers and other technology upgrades to the classrooms as funding comes in. We are requesting \$20,000 in equipment funding to purchase computers for our computer lab.

### ***Mary C. Rich Clubhouse: \$124,000***

Personnel- As our membership continues to grow in original unit, we need to hire more staff to provide quality services to our members. In the last five years our teen membership has grown by 400%. We need to hire an additional 10 part-time staff members who will work \$12/hr for 20 hours per week for 40 weeks a year. The additional personnel cost is \$96,000.

Program Supplies- To accommodate new programming and updated materials, we are requesting \$8,000 in funding to support our program supplies including educational programming, Middle School Night, Saturday Night Live, and our Culinary program.

Equipment- Our technology is outdated and inadequate for the number of members we have coming to the club every day. Especially for our older members, computers are required for their homework completion. In order to meet the need for our population, we are requesting \$20,000 to purchase additional computers for our computer lab and teen room.