FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q  What is the Boys & Girls Club of Souhegan Valley building?
   A  Our expansion includes a high school sized gym and new teen center providing appropriate space for recreational sports, physical activity, and a new facility for teens with a separate entrance. We also plan to redesign existing program space to increase safety, locate age-appropriate activities together, and increase program impact with dedicated space for academics and theater arts programs.

Q  Why is the Club expanding?
   A  The expansion is needed to both retain members as they transition from Middle School to High School, as well as attract more members of all ages. As a result of our expansion and renovations, our program offerings will increase in quantity and quality. Why is this important? Because although we provide wonderful programs that engage members through our after school and performing arts programs, we know there are many children who would attend more if we provided the same opportunities for positive programs through additional sports and recreational activities. Our plan increases opportunities to connect with children, retain them in our programs, and increase their participation.

Q  Why do you need more space?
   A  Our current facility is used to its maximum. Program areas must be used for multiple purposes including recreational sport activities in spaces not appropriate to this level of activity. This addition will provide appropriate space for recreational activities and extended programming for teens. The resulting increased access to recreational sports for middle and high school students will increase physical activity and energy expenditure, as well as foster opportunities for leadership development and positive relationships.

   A  Our plans also include renovations to our existing facility, including a new academic center to provide dedicated space for homework, a new computer lab, space dedicated to STEM activities, an Early Education Center, a new music room, and renovations to our theater lobby so that the space can be used for rehearsals. We must reach all our fundraising goals, however, to fully realize all our plans. Program offerings will increase in quantity and quality with the expansion of physical space and expanded staff.
Q  You have a teen room now, why the need for a new one?
   A  The current “Teen Room” is not open evenings or weekends, lacks a separate
       entrance, and is centrally located in the building. With a better entrance and more
       contained space, older members will feel like young adults taking charge of their
       leisure time to seek healthy recreation, leadership opportunities and community
       involvement rather than like children being sent for babysitting. The result will be
       an increase in services for older teens, an important initiative with the increasing
       stressors and potential for drug and alcohol misuse facing young people in our
       community today.

Q  What kind of programs will you run?
   A  Our plans include various skill development programs and recreational leagues for
       sports such as basketball, floor hockey, volleyball, kickball, dodgeball, and more!
       In addition, our Teen Center will be open later some evenings providing increased
       opportunities for socializing, meetings, and recreational activities for older teens.

Q  What are the safety issues that will be addressed?
   A  Our plans include renovations to the front entrance to provide a larger reception
       area for parents and visitors and secured entrance to the theater lobby and Club.
       Once complete, the facility will have three secure "zones"; Theater, Club and Gym.
       Each area of the facility can be used separately, increasing control and security. For
       example, the gym or teen center can be open late on Friday without providing
       access to the rest of the facility.

Q  How many more children do you think you’ll serve with this addition?
   A  We project overall membership will increase by over 300 youth within three years
       as a result of current members continuing to attend as they get older, and new
       members joining due to expanded programs and services.  We anticipate our
       average daily attendance will increase from 180 to over 250 a day within three
       years.

Q  Will membership and program fees increase to help pay for the expansion?
   A  We will continue to work hard to raise the necessary funds to keep our fees as
       affordable as possible, and do not plan to increase fees just to fund our expanded
       facility. Additional programs, leagues, and activities may include additional fees to
       fund expanded programming expenses, however.  We will continue to offer
       scholarship assistance to ensure access to programs regardless of ability to pay.

Q  How will your expansion affect the Club’s need for annual giving? Is this growth sustainable?
   A  Our operating budget totals $1.36 million today, 41% of which is generated through
       donations, fundraising events, and grants. The need for ongoing generosity and
       support from our donors is critical to keep our fees low and support our daily
       operations during and after our capital campaign. After our expansion we
       anticipate our need for support will increase by approximately $80,000 annually
       (adjusted for inflation). We are confident our community will support this increase
       as we work to serve more children.