Boys & Girls Club of Newport County Champions Youth at Statehouse

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Boys & Girls Club of Newport County Leaders Champion R.I. Youth
Club Leaders and Youth Speak on Issues Impacting Kids and Teens

Newport, RI – Groups of leaders, volunteers, supporters and youth representing Boys & Girls Clubs from across Rhode Island met with state lawmakers on Tuesday, March 27, 2019 as part of the group’s State Legislative Day. Participants advocated for the critical needs of kids and teens in R.I. and demonstrated the value Clubs bring to kids, families, and communities statewide.

“Clubs like ours have a unique role as community leaders in providing valuable afterschool programs to our country’s youth that enable them to achieve great futures,” said Joseph Pratt, Executive Director & CEO. “We are proud to raise visibility of the needs of our youth, especially the ones who need us most, and to show what we can accomplish with the support of our elected officials, private partnerships and our community.”

State Legislative Day participants focused on issues and challenges that matter most to the kids and teens they serve, and why afterschool programs like those offered by Clubs are critical in ensuring great futures for America’s youth. Boys & Girls Clubs are essential places in kids’ lives where they can develop skills, make lasting connections with mentors and achieve great futures.

Boys & Girls Clubs fill the gap between school and home and provide a welcoming, positive environment where kids and teens have fun, participate in life-changing programs and experiences, ready themselves for success in education, life and career, and build supportive relationships with peers and caring adults. We know that investment in afterschool opportunities creates impact in local communities, especially for working families that rely on Boys & Girls Clubs as a means to be employed full-time. Boys & Girls Clubs drive measurable results for our nation’s youth:

- Every day, kids in Newport County leave school with nowhere to go. Boys & Girls Clubs of Newport County currently serves over 200 youth daily.
- During the summer, Boys & Girls Clubs help close the summer learning gap that significantly impacts low-income youth.
- Regularly attending Club members ages 12 to 17 from low-income families outperform their peers academically, with 74 percent reporting getting A’s and B’s in school, more than 10 percent higher than their peers nationally.
- Every $1 invested in a Boys & Girls Clubs returns $9.60 in current and future earnings and cost-savings to their communities.

“Our community depends on state and Federal resources to bring vital, life changing programming for our kids and teens,” said Joseph Pratt, Executive Director & CEO “Our advocacy isn’t just a one-day event. We are motivated and committed to raising our voices on issues impacting youth in our community and the programs and solutions that set them on the path to great futures.”

The mission of the Boys & Girls Club of Newport County is to inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need help most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens. For more than 60 years, the
Boys & Girls Club has provided quality programs and outreach services in the critical areas of academic success, healthy lifestyles, and character & leadership development to help put all kids on a path to a great future. The Club is part of a nationwide movement of more than 4,000 Boys & Girls Clubs, and provides services to more than 6000 youth annually.

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**About Boys & Girls Clubs of America**

For more than 150 years, Boys & Girls Clubs of America has enabled young people most in need to achieve great futures as productive, caring, responsible citizens. Today, 4,300 Clubs serve 4 million young people annually through Club membership and community outreach. Clubs are located in cities, towns, public housing and on Native lands throughout the country, and serve military families in BGCA-affiliated Youth Centers on U.S. military installations worldwide. They provide a safe place, caring adult mentors, fun, friendship, and high-impact youth development programs on a daily basis during critical non-school hours. Learn more at [www.bgca.org](http://www.bgca.org).