

## Boys & Girls Club of Eden-Lake Shore Funds Programs for Local Kids



The Boys & Girls Club of Eden-Lake Shore is proud to announce their Whatever It Takes Campaign. Financial support from this Campaign will invest in members and our communities. It will fund high-quality summer youth programs and keep childcare costs to families at a minimum.

The challenges for the Boys & Girls Club of Eden-Lake Shore and youth have been significant. Members have struggled physically, mentally, and financially. The Club is doing whatever it takes to ensure all kids have a great future. Summer programming began in July 2020 to a limited number of children. The goal was to offer youth services

that were safe and fun. They provide caring mentors, and innovative programs designed to empower youth to excel in school and lead healthy, productive lives.

As the school year began, The Club became a virtual learning center, offering educational support to children in the Lake Shore and Eden school communities. As the school districts changed course from traditional in-school programming to remote and hybrid configurations, kids needed a safe space to learn. The Club adopted new programs and adapted schedules to support local families. Staff offered educational support to youth and assistance with virtual classes. Covid-19 limited the number of participating youth to 80 children. In 2021, they continued offering full-day programs and childcare to families. Because of these programs, parents can return to work while their children stayed on task with school.

Comments from Jason Mazurkiewicz, Executive Director. "Our job is to do whatever it takes to help kids succeed. The Club is here to keep kids safe and engaged during full-day, after-school, and summer programs. We provide a safe space for kids to succeed educationally, physically, mentally, and socially. However, the expense to maintain these programs is significant."

Thanks to generous financial support from individual donors, the Town of Evans and Erie 2 BOCES, the Boys & Girls Club of Eden-Lake Shore was able to keep the cost for after-school programs low. Funding from the Town of Evans in February 2021 helped us establish a virtual learning center in the Lake Shore School District. Support from Erie 2 BOCES made it possible to provide the same programs at our Eden Clubhouse. The Club hopes support from the Whatever It Takes Campaign will have the same result for summer programs. It is expected the cost for these services will cost The Club \$26,337.

Additional insight from Jason Mazurkiewicz: "The Club is committed to helping kids build great futures and give back to the communities we serve. We are an affordable option because of the support we receive from this community. Providing youth programs is an expensive task, especially during a pandemic. The Club has to hire additional staff to maintain social distancing. We are hoping the community will come through and support our Whatever It Takes Campaign."

Funds from the Whatever It Takes Campaign will help local kids and The Club recover from the effects of Covid-19. To support our Whatever It Takes Campaign, please visit our website at [bgcedenlakeshore.org](http://bgcedenlakeshore.org) or by mailing it to 8284 North Main Street, Eden, NY 14057.

For families facing challenging times and interested in learning about our scholarship opportunities, please contact Executive Director Jason Mazurkiewicz at [jason@bgcedenlakeshore.org](mailto:jason@bgcedenlakeshore.org).

For more information about our after-school or summer sign-up, please email Unit Director Julia Swiecicki at: [julia@bgcedenlakeshore.org](mailto:julia@bgcedenlakeshore.org).

