



The Cindy Platt
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
 OF TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY



WHATEVER. IT. TAKES.

SUMMER 2021

Farewell to the 2020-21 School Year...

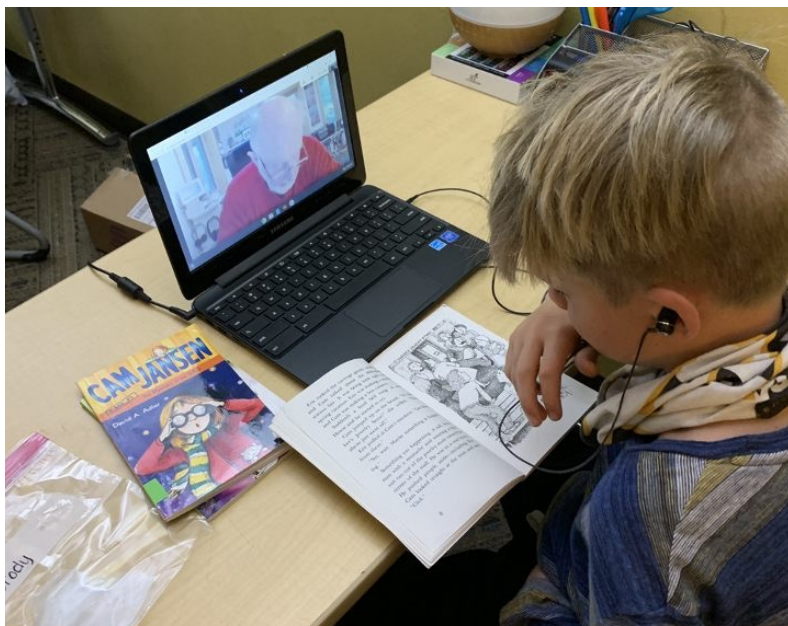
We did it together. Another school year is in the rearview mirror. Our Boys & Girls Club served 220 children from 130 families in our community. Five tutors and 13 staff provided academic assistance throughout the year to our members to deliver a little extra support with their study plans. Tutors engaged virtually and consistently. We recently started collaborating with the Foster Grandparent Program through the Land of Sky Regional Council, and five of our six summer tutors have answered the call to serve with this initiative. Federally funded by the Corporation of National and Community Service, the program provides opportunities for seniors to impact the lives of children in their community (Land of Sky, 2021). It's a match made in heaven, as far as we are concerned.



Jessica Ramirez conceived this artwork with our kindergarteners and first graders after exploring a program on diversity, equity, and inclusion. The kids chose the paint colors to represent all the beautiful diversity among themselves. This collaborative piece lives at Pisgah Forest Elementary now.

Art is Healing

Our first full-time Art Director Jessica Ramirez brings her passion and purpose to the art room every day. Her grandfather taught her *technique* to complement her *talent* in art at a young age. She found a place of refuge and peace in creating art that she strives to share with our children. Expressive art can encourage, uplift, and inspire youth in their personal journeys. One of our teens, Addison Robinson, created a very vulnerable piece of art that Jessica submitted to Boys & Girls Clubs of America to be exhibited at the National Conference in May. Addison's visual poster was selected from over 120 entries.



Tutor Ian Wedderspoon studies virtually with Club member Brody.

Follow us!

Facebook: [BGCTransylvania](https://www.facebook.com/BGCTransylvania)
 Instagram: [cindyplatt.bgc](https://www.instagram.com/cindyplatt.bgc)
www.bgctransylvania.org



Sports Fill a Need and Foster Belonging

The verdict is in! This year, we ran our inaugural in-house basketball league serving grades 1st through middle school, comprised of seven teams.

100% of the Club's basketball players reported they learned new skills (or improved skills), and felt like the coaches listened to and cared about them, pushed them to do their best, and wanted them to be successful. 100% of parents believed their children felt more invested in the Club and felt an increased sense of camaraderie. Heard around the Club: *100% of the coaches and staff were grateful to host a safe basketball season.*



Our Boys 12U Flag Football team snagged the first championship of the year (above). Our Girls Flag Football team scored a VIP invitation to the first ever National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Women's College Flag Football Championship (right).

The Club fielded sports teams in basketball and flag football leagues, as well as club volleyball, as soon as it was safe to do so. It must have paid off, because in May 2021, the Club's Boys 12U Flag Football team won the Georgia Elite Sports Academy Spring Bling Flag Football Tournament championship in Atlanta. A whopping 86 children were served through sports programs at the Club during the 2020-21 School Year.



Mentors Make a Difference

We are fortunate to have 16 mentors invested in 24 Club members through our mentoring program. It's another way staff can build intentional relationships with our kids who might want a little something extra from us. Mentors and mentees spend an hour together every other week as schedules allow. The children have great input into what they would like to learn, see, or do with their mentors. Occasionally, all of our mentors and mentees get together to celebrate each other and JUST HAVE FUN! Well, maybe there is some work involved...seven staff, five mentees, and two parents came together this



Brooklyn and her mentee Bailey learn a new skill-knitting!-during their shared time together at the Club (above).

spring to work in our half-acre garden and prepare it for planting. Combined they spent 30 hours weeding and tilling 24 beds; filling six new raised beds with compost and dirt; planting turnips, beets, onions, carrots, and strawberries; cutting back the blackberry canes; and organizing the new greenhouse. Whew. That was a lot. One of our Club families, the Kinseys, coordinated the donation and delivery of enough dirt to fill the raised beds from Cason Builders Supply. Bartlett Tree Experts donated mulch. Lest you be concerned about the FUN part of this gardening labor of love, all of our participants stayed for a cookout afterward to enjoy some shade under the Glass Foundation Pavilion. It was a wonderful opportunity to show everyone just a bit of

Bay is taking a well-deserved break from volunteering in the garden (below).



what we do in our Harvest Project program, and it was a great way to build some Club camaraderie. Now we are ready to harvest and share the bounty from our garden all summer long. Produce will be used in cooking programs and donated to our families and friends in the community.