



# Annual Impact Report

2025





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# The difference **you** made in 2025

***In a year when children and youth needed us more than ever, you were there for them.***

Your support in 2025 helped BGC Ottawa (BGCO) remain a steady, reliable lifeline for young people across our city. You kept Club doors open, meals cooking, homework help available and mentors ready to listen.

Across Ottawa, children and youth are navigating deeper mental-health strains, food insecurity and increasing social-emotional challenges. Affordable after-school options remain out of reach for many. Thanks to you, thousands had a safe place to turn, and a community that refused to let them fall behind.

Because of donors like you, our Clubhouses continue to provide what every child deserves: a place to belong, healthy meals, trusted adults and free programs that strengthen confidence, academics and wellbeing. For many families, we remain the only no-cost, accessible option for safe, high-quality after-school support.

We continue to adapt our programs to meet the increasingly complex needs we see in our Clubhouses by strengthening mental wellness programs, providing literacy and learning assistance, and offering recreation, arts and leadership opportunities that help young people build resilience and stay connected. ***Your generosity makes all of this possible every day – thank you!***



## Financial update

***As of Dec. 31, we are projecting an operating surplus of \$500,000 for fiscal year 2025, and a surplus of \$300,000 after amortization. This will mark the Club's highest revenue year on record at close to \$9.8 million.***

Donations and events continue to be our strongest revenue drivers, contributing over \$5.4 million, or 55.2% of total revenue and 90% of funding for our Clubhouses and Camp Smitty. In contrast, government funding for Camp Smitty and our Clubhouses represents just 10% of overall revenue, underscoring how essential donor and community support is in sustaining our programs.

Long-term financial sustainability remains a top priority. In 2025, we successfully balanced cost containment with maximizing our impact, meeting revenue goals through higher-than-expected donations and proceeds from marquee and third-party events. Building on this success, we are focusing on securing multi-year commitments and expanding other revenue streams to ensure strong financial footing in 2026 and beyond.

BGCO is at a pivotal moment. Your continued support allows us to stabilize operations, expand access and ensure that no child is left without the programs, mentors and safe spaces they rely on. When you give to BGCO, you provide safety, opportunity, dignity and hope.

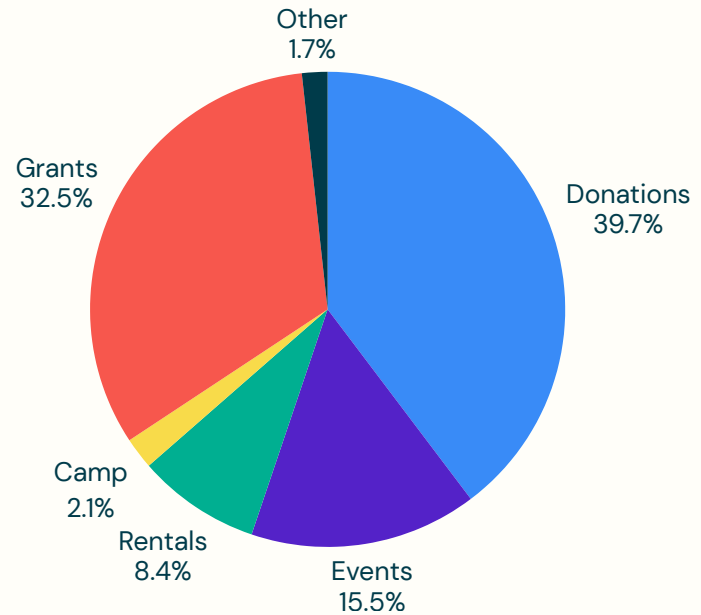
***Thanks to you, young people are finding the encouragement, safety and opportunities they deserve.***



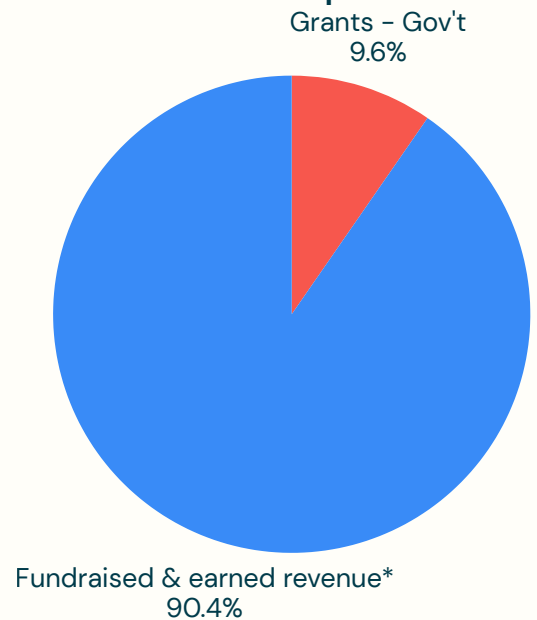
# Forecast

<b>**In thousands</b>	<b>2025 FY Forecast</b>	<b>2025 Budget</b>	<b>Variance</b>
<b>Revenues</b>			
Grants	3,185	3,320	(135)
Donations	3,885	3,195	690
Fundraising events	1,515	1,385	130
Rentals	820	855	(35)
Camp fees	210	398	(188)
Sponsorship	-	25	(25)
Other	120	70	50
Investment income (loss)	50	230	(180)
	9,785	9,478	307
<b>Expenses</b>			
Salaries & benefits – full time	4,575	4,705	130
Salaries & benefits – part time	1,775	1,520	(255)
Occupancy costs	960	1,000	40
Program costs	700	794	94
Fundraising expenses	610	538	(72)
Office expenses	305	327	22
Professional fees	235	212	(23)
Transportation costs	125	149	24
	9,285	9,245	(40)
<b>Operating surplus</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>267</b>
<b>Amortization of tangible Capital Assets</b>			
Amortization of revenue	520	525	(5)
Amortization of expenses	720	736	16
	(200)	(211)	(21)
<b>Surplus after amortization</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>246</b>

**Revenue sources – all services**



**2025 revenue sources – Clubhouses and Camps**



**\*Note: Fundraised and earned revenue reflects donations, events, camp fees, facility rentals, non-government grants and other minor revenue streams.**





# Building financial sustainability

## Advancement

In 2025, BGCO strengthened its position as a charity of choice through sustainable, community-driven fundraising. Our Advancement Team led efforts across major gifts, two marquee events, an expanding network of third-party fundraisers and a revitalized annual giving program that all surpassed their respective goals. ***With 90% of funding for our Clubhouses and Camp Smitty coming from local donors, sponsors and partners, our impact is truly powered by you, our donors.***

A major focus this year was growing our Builders' Club monthly giving program through a door-to-door campaign, welcoming 321 new monthly donors. Overall, our monthly giving community grew from 113 to 460 donors, providing reliable, year-round support for children and youth.

With renewed donor engagement helped by telemarketing, direct mail and our new *Club Connect* newsletter, ***fundraising rose from \$4.275 million in 2024 to over \$5.4 million this year***, ensuring a stronger, more sustainable future for Ottawa's young people.



***"Our community makes the difference. Each monthly donor, sponsor and supporter helps turn possibility into opportunity every single day." – Adam Joiner, Chief Executive Officer***

## Social enterprise

### Day camps

In summer 2025, BGCO delivered its second year of summer day camps as part of a social enterprise strategy designed to support sustainable Club funding. Offered over six weeks at three Clubhouse locations, the day camps were open to the broader Ottawa community and ***welcomed 692 registrations from 221 unique Campers***, generating \$55,000 in revenue through a tiered fee structure that included reduced and subsidized options to ensure accessibility.

To support growth and program quality, BGCO expanded its dedicated day-camp staffing and launched a targeted marketing strategy to increase reach and participation. In 2026, the program will enter its third year, building on this momentum while continuing to prioritize affordability and access for families.



### Rentals

As part of BGCO's social enterprise strategy to generate sustainable operating revenue, our Clubhouse facilities are available for rent to businesses, community groups, associations and organizations for both short- and long-term use. Rentals offer access to secure and flexible spaces, including private meeting rooms, gymnasiums, games areas, fully equipped kitchens, audio-visual equipment and on-site staff support.

In 2025, facility rentals ***generated more than \$790,000 in gross revenue***. This revenue plays a critical role in sustaining Club operations and directly supports programs that serve children and youth across our community.



# A look at our Clubhouses

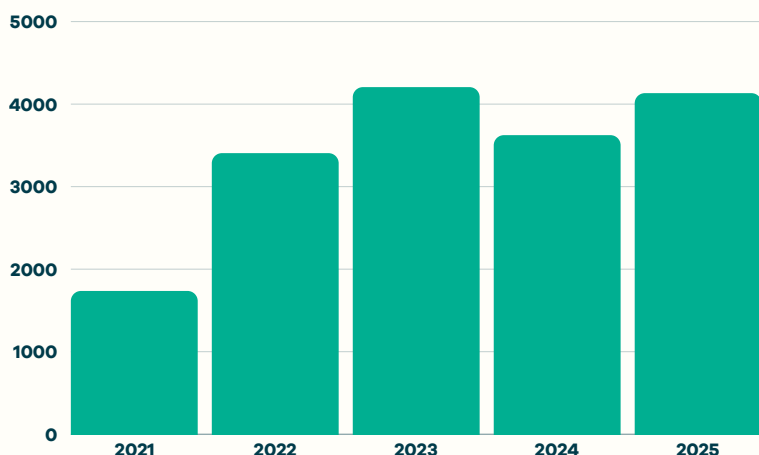
## Membership

Collectively, *the Club currently serves 4,133 unique Members*, representing an increase of 509 Members over 2024. The Ron Kolbus Clubhouse welcomed the highest number of Members in 2025. Member engagement varies: some attend daily, others participate in specific programs and some seek additional support during challenging times.

Regardless of frequency, we provide a safe, positive space where Members can play, create and grow while developing the skills they need to become their best selves. *As of Dec. 15, Members have visited the Club 99,227 times*, an increase of 12,258 visits compared to 2024, reflecting strengthened participation and sustained demand for Club services.

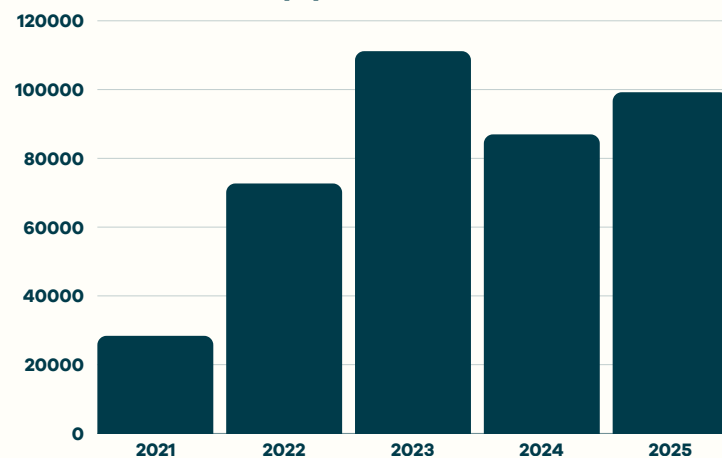


## Memberships by year



*\*Note: The decline since 2023 can be attributed to longer closures and shorter opening hours. A tough decision made due to budget constraints.*

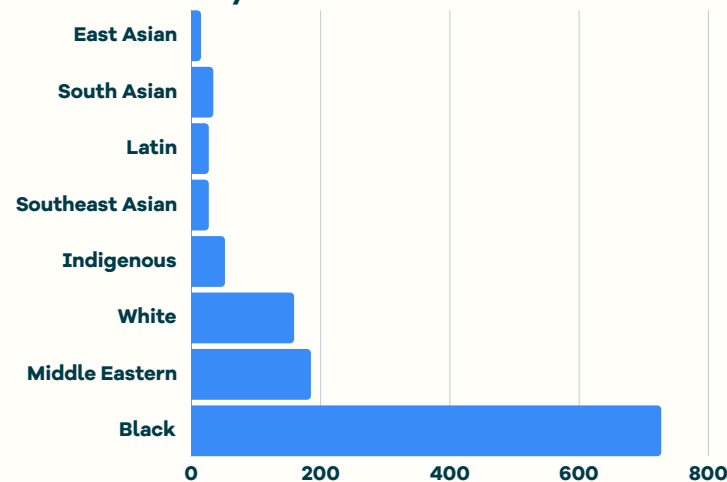
## Member visits by year



## Inclusive programming

BGCO offers tailored programs for Juniors (6–10), Intermediates (11–13) and Seniors (14–18). While more male Members attend, we're actively redesigning programs to better engage female Members, whose participation often drops as family responsibilities grow. Registration data guides us in meeting Members' diverse needs. With nearly 90% of Members identifying as racialized, we celebrate cultural diversity and prioritize inclusion. Staff receive training in behaviour management, inclusive programming and supporting Members with special needs like ADHD or ODD, creating a welcoming space for all.

## Racial identity







# Program highlights

At BGCO, every Clubhouse is a place where young people can explore their interests, develop new skills and discover their full potential. From art and academics to leadership and athletics, our programs nurture confidence, creativity and connection, helping Members grow into their best selves.

*The highlights that follow offer just a snapshot of what you make possible through your generosity.* They represent a small sample of the programs available every day in our Clubhouses, where Members learn new skills, discover their passions and find their voice. Because of you, these moments of growth and joy are shaping futures that reach far beyond the Clubhouse walls.

## Education

### **Featured program:** **Future Steps – Ron Kolbus Clubhouse**

Future Steps helps teens plan for post-secondary education and career pathways. Youth receive weekly guidance on financial literacy, funding opportunities, post-secondary applications and program selection.

The program empowers participants to navigate scholarships, bursaries, money management and application processes while building confidence and clarity about their future. By providing personalized support and resources, Future Steps ensures youth feel prepared and motivated to pursue their goals.



*“This program has helped me learn how to access funding that can cover my tuition fees. The staff guided me through the application process, supported my post-secondary choices and helped me secure enough funding to cover my first year of university.” – Joyce, 18 years old*



*“The Future Steps program changed the way I see my future. The workshop with Queen’s University opened my eyes to scholarships, residence life and the OUAC process. As a first-generation student, I felt uncertain before but now I see that my goals are possible.”  
– Abdinasir, 17 years old*





## Creative Arts

### **Featured program:**

#### **Art Now – Don McGahan Clubhouse**

With generous support from the United Way, Art Now gives youth aged 6 to 18 a welcoming space to explore art, learn new skills and express themselves. Based at the Don McGahan Clubhouse, the program engaged over 500 participants this year, offering experiences in painting, sculpture, music, storytelling, podcasting, dance and eco-art.

Working with local artists, Indigenous educators and partners like the Ottawa School of Theatre and the Odawa Native Friendship Centre, youth take part in hands-on workshops and collaborative projects such as murals, performances and wearable art. Highlights this year included fused-glass jewellery, slam poetry, climate-focused murals with seniors, Pow Wow dance and storytelling with Indigenous mentors, and field trips to the Ottawa Art Gallery and the National Gallery of Canada.

Art Now is a cornerstone of BGCO's Creative Arts Pillar. It helps youth build confidence, find their voice and connect with others. The program demonstrates how art can break down barriers, foster belonging and support healthy development and self-esteem.

***"I love doing art at BGC Ottawa. It's fun and we do different things." – Aubrey, 12 years old***



## Leadership & Social Skills

### **Featured program:**

#### **Trailblazers Junior Youth Council – Taggart Parkes Family Clubhouse**

Trailblazers at the Taggart Parkes Family Clubhouse invites youth aged 9 to 12 to step up, share ideas and make a difference in their Clubhouse. Participants plan activities, organize events and contribute to decisions that shape their space, learning that leadership begins with action.

Through teamwork and collaboration, youth build confidence, communication skills and a sense of responsibility. Early activities, like Personality Poker, helped them see their strengths and how combining them makes the team stronger. They also assessed the Clubhouse, sharing what they love and ideas for improvement.

In October, Trailblazers planned a Halloween party from start to finish, creating an escape room, decorations, snacks and acting as "scarers" for younger Members.

Trailblazers teaches youth to lead with purpose while uplifting others, helping cultivate the next generation of changemakers.

***"I'm happy I joined Trailblazers because we all get together to problem solve." – Naomi, 11 years old***





## Physical Activity & Healthy Lifestyle

### Featured program:

#### **World Cup Soccer – Tomlinson Family Foundation Clubhouse**

World Cup Soccer at the Tomlinson Family Foundation Clubhouse gives Members aged 6 to 13 a fun way to stay active, build confidence and connect with others through the world's most popular sport. Each week, participants play matches and join skill-building games that improve passing, dribbling, coordination and teamwork.

The program also focuses on the social side of sport. Youth learn communication, sportsmanship and how to work together, while younger Members practice game rules and positive ways to resolve conflicts.

Special tournaments add extra excitement, with teams representing different countries, country flags to cheer and wear, fun prizes and treats and a chance for participants to celebrate their heritages together. Kids cheer, strategize and create lasting friendships while enjoying friendly competition.



### **Program spotlight: BGC Thunderbolts**

The BGC Thunderbolts program gives youth life-changing opportunities in sport, education and leadership, all at no cost. From elite coaching and equipment to academic guidance and tournament exposure, players experience the full competitive basketball journey thanks to generous supporters like you.

#### **Athletic and academic growth**

In the 2024–2025 season, over 50 youth played across three U19 teams: Boys National, Boys Regional and Girls. Athletes benefited from expert coaching, strength and conditioning through SAF Performance, and leadership and mental health sessions that build confidence and resilience. Academic support, including homework help and scholarship guidance, ensured success on the court and in the classroom. The National Team finished 31-1 and won back-to-back NPH Championships, a first in league history. Our teams also captured gold at the Chris Paulin Tournament, Onx Capital Classic, NCHC League and Black History Month Tournament.

#### **Impact beyond the court**

Thunderbolts athletes give back by volunteering at BGC events, mentoring younger Members and building a culture of teamwork. **The program opens doors to post-secondary opportunities, with six players committed to U SPORTS programs, four to OCAA colleges and two earning full scholarships to prep schools in Toronto.** The season concluded with a celebration of nearly 20 graduating players as they embark on college, university and new life chapters, a proud moment for athletes, families and the BGC community.

***"I like participating in World Cup Soccer because I grew up playing soccer. It's my favourite sport!" – Iyad, 10 years old***





# Camp Smitty

Thanks to your generosity, **Camp Smitty gave 432 children and youth a summer full of adventure**, growth and joy. From splashing in the lake and paddling canoes to sharing stories around the campfire and taking part in leadership activities, Campers discovered new skills, built lasting friendships and grew in confidence. To make Camp accessible to all, **65% of Campers received a subsidy through confidential applications, and 24% attended with a no-questions-asked reduced fee.** Your support made these unforgettable moments possible.

## Out-trips

Camp Smitty's signature out-tripping programs returned this year thanks to a generous donor. One-night canoe trips across the lake gave Campers their first taste of sleeping outdoors, building confidence and independence. Leaders-in-Training took three-day trips in Algonquin Park, learning advanced skills, teamwork and leadership in a wilderness setting. Across 11 trips, 166 Campers experienced the excitement and challenge of outdoor adventure, guided by a dedicated Out-Trip Coordinator and supported by essential equipment, from tents to a safety boat.

## Maintaining and restoring Camp

Camp Smitty thrives because of ongoing care and renewal. This September, work began on SOM Hall, the heart of camp life, with a full rebuild now underway and led by Amsted Design-Build. Thanks to the generosity of our donors and contractors, many of whom are contributing in-kind services, SOM Hall is on track to reopen in 2026.

Every swim, hike and campfire is possible because of supporters like you. Your generosity helps children explore, grow and create memories that will last a lifetime.

*"Camp was the best part of my summer! I made new friends and we laughed so much. I loved swimming and playing games outside. I felt happy because everyone was so nice and I could just be myself." - Hamsa, 9 years old*



## SURVEY RESULTS:

- 100% were more physically active because of Camp
- 100% reported that Camp helped them avoid things that are dangerous or unhealthy
- 100% stated that Camp made them care more about other people's feelings
- 89% felt comfortable and respected in the Camp space
- 89% felt they could be their true selves at Camp







# Community Services

BGCO's community services extend our impact well beyond Clubhouse walls, connecting with thousands of children, youth and families each year. Outreach is essential to reaching young people where they live, learn and gather, and is anchored by two key programs: the Neighbourhood Ambassador Program (NAP) and the Provincial Youth Outreach Worker Program (PYOW).

## Neighbourhood Ambassador Program (NAP)

In partnership with the City of Ottawa, NAP ambassadors build relationships with youth across 31 priority neighbourhoods, offering mentorship, guidance and meaningful pathways to opportunity. Many ambassadors come from the communities they serve, helping create trust and a shared sense of understanding. **As of Oct. 31, ambassadors had engaged with youth 23,813 times**, supporting them in community spaces, listening to their needs and linking them to additional resources, including PYOW. They also strengthen local well-being by reporting concerns, amplifying resident voices and helping ensure improvements across neighbourhoods.

## Provincial Youth Outreach Worker Program (PYOW)

Once youth are connected, PYOW provides ongoing, individualized support for young people aged 12 to 24. So far this year, **PYOW has had 1,888 interactions with 867 youth**, offering everything from check-ins and academic help to crisis intervention and advocacy for those facing serious barriers such as homelessness, mental health challenges or exploitation. PYOW workers build steady, caring relationships grounded in trust, helping youth set goals, access resources and feel encouraged in school, work and life.

## A continuum of care

Together, NAP and PYOW form a seamless pathway of support. NAP ambassadors make the first connection at the neighbourhood level, while PYOW offers the sustained guidance needed to help youth navigate challenges and move toward brighter futures. This coordinated approach ensures young people feel seen, supported and empowered, strengthening both their long-term outcomes and the communities they call home.





# Thanks to you, our impact continues

As we reflect on 2025, we are grateful for the generosity of our donors and community. Across Ottawa, too many children and youth continue to face hunger, isolation, learning gaps and neighbourhoods with limited access to safe, supportive spaces after school. Families are doing all they can, yet the need for support continues to grow.

Because of you, BGCO is there when it matters most. Your support makes it possible to provide safe, no-cost programs that offer mentorship, healthy meals, academic support and, most importantly, a sense of belonging. These programs help young people build confidence, resilience and the skills they need to succeed, today and into the future.

***While 2025 marked our highest revenue year on record, the reality is clear: we cannot meet the growing need alone.*** With your continued leadership and generosity, we can expand access, strengthen programs and ensure our Clubhouses remain consistent, welcoming spaces for young people across the city.

Your support ensures that every child has a place to belong, every teen has access to a safe and supportive environment and every family can count on us when they need it most. Together, we are shaping a stronger, healthier and more hopeful future for Ottawa's children and youth.

On behalf of everyone at BGCO, I want to personally thank you for your unwavering support and dedication. Your generosity transforms lives every day and we are deeply grateful to have you as part of our community.



— Adam Joiner, CEO, BGCO



***Thank you for believing in the potential of every child.  
Thank you for keeping our doors open, free and full of opportunity.  
Thank you for standing with the young people who need us most.***