



**GREAT FUTURES START HERE.**

**SUMMER 2023**

**Teens Get a Temporary Home & K-5th Waitlist Erased by 2024!**

In January 2023 our Club purchased the Destiny Church property across from our main Boys & Girls Club campus on Gallimore Road with plans to have an immediate home for our teens. The property became available when the church decided to move to a new location. To get ready for our summer program, staff members and volunteers were busy with minor renovations and painting inside the building. The GREAT NEWS is that this summer our teens have begun using the 4,800 square foot space as a temporary home. As a reminder, our teens have had to make do with less than ideal off-campus homes over the past few years. Now lovingly referred to as the Sykes Family Teen Center, we have addressed one of our Club's most pressing needs with a building for our teens. The acquisition of this property has also allowed us to prioritize the clubhouse expansion and immediately address our waitlist. The groundbreaking for our main building campus expansion will be held in August. We expect the clubhouse expansion to be completed by the fall of 2024. At that point, we will be able to double our capacity for K-5 and eliminate our waitlist almost two years ahead of our original schedule!

Board Member Keith Hawk recently came to the new Sykes Family Teen Center to give a cooking lesson on the art of hot sauce making with ingredients from our Club garden. Our Health & Wellness Director, Autumn Lollis, reported that some of our most reluctant Club members enthusiastically stepped in to participate!



*"I applaud our Board for making this mid-stream change in our building program in response to obtaining an existing property immediately adjacent to the Club. By leveraging the opportunity presented with this newly purchased structure, we can immediately meet what seemed like mutually opposing goals of getting our teens back on campus while doubling the capacity of the Club's ability to serve elementary and pre-teen youth. This opportunity was simply not available when we started down this path. I am excited about the opportunity to create the most impact on our community in the most expeditious timing standpoint."*

**Clay Sykes, Board Member and Capital Campaign Supporter**

*"Our favorite thing about being at the Club this summer is being able to do art and triple play. We get to see our friends and go on cool trips. We really like having our own space and being able to take care of it and being away from the little kids sometimes is nice!"*

**Lily and Avery Owens, 8th grade Club member twins**



**Facebook: BGCTransylvania  
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# Digging our Garden Makeover



Through the Maytag Dependable Leader Award, won by our Assistant Executive Director, Jamie Atkinson, our garden received a major make-over this year! This renovation included 20 new raised beds, a bean trellis, a pumpkin patch, a brand new greenhouse, and brought back our observation beehive. Our renovation has proved useful since we are on track to **double** the amount of produce harvested compared to the past two years! Our produce consists of cabbage, lettuce, kale, cucumbers, peas, eggplant, peppers, beans, okra, herbs, cantaloupe, watermelon, beets, radishes, carrots, zucchini, squash, tomatoes, pumpkins, and blackberries. This produce goes home with our families at the end of most days. This huge undertaking would not be possible without our kids' helping hands. In the planting phase, we had our 4th and 5th graders pair up with our 1st graders. The older Club members guided (and mentored!) the younger Club members through this process. *All* of our members are responsible for weeding, watering, picking, and cleaning our garden to keep it in tip-top shape. On any given summer day they are outside and "boots on the ground" working on all the many tasks involved in a bountiful garden space!

A variety of produce is harvested daily



THANK YOU to our board members and volunteers who pitched in during this garden redo. And special thanks to our Facilities Director, Glenn Boyer, for getting the greenhouse painstakingly assembled - piece by piece by piece!

# Flag Football Represents Carolina Panthers in Washington D.C.

The National Football League held its NFL Flag Summer Invitational in Washington D.C. the final weekend of July. All 32 teams in the NFL were represented by a youth flag football team, and for the Carolina Panthers, that team was our Club! Based out of Charlotte, the Panthers frequently use the slogan "two states, one team". Our Teen Director, (and head flag football coach), Devon Holmes, couldn't be more grateful that they chose us. *"The Panthers could have picked anybody from the Charlotte area, or North and South Carolina areas. The fact they came to Brevard and chose us speaks volumes."* Our flag football team finished up the weekend 8th out of 32 teams and we all think that is something to celebrate!

Flag football quarterback, Christian Conley, a rising sophomore in high school, states that having summer ball is the perfect way to have fun and work on the craft. *"Just being out here with my guys, and then the tournaments, makes it fun."* His friend and teammate, Tristian Wynn, who is heading into the ninth grade speaks highly of Christian, beyond the field. *"He's like a brother to me."* says Tristian.

Increasingly prevalent in youth flag football is the rise of girls participation. *"It's the next wave, it's the new big thing. As far as coaching them, I may like it a little more, they listen, they're mature,"* says head coach, Devon Holmes.



THE ONE FLAG CHAMPIONSHIP

14U BOYS  
**CHAMPIONS**

THE CLUB

Boys 14U team celebrating a recent championship win at "The One" in Charlotte



Club girls bringing their A-game to the field!

