



About BGCB

What We Do

Our mission is to help young people, especially those who need us most, build strong character and realize their full potential as responsible citizens and leaders.

We do this by providing:

- a safe haven filled with hope and opportunity
- ongoing relationships with caring adults
- life-enhancing programs

Where We Work

BGCB currently operates five free-standing Clubs and five Shared-Space Clubs throughout Boston and in Chelsea. We serve communities where the need for safe after-school, weekend and summer programming is greatest. BGCB also operates YouthConnect and Camp Harbor View.

BGCB Leadership

Josh Kraft, Nicholas President and CEO
Jonathan G. Davis, Chair, Board of Directors
Myra Hiatt Kraft, Chair Emerita
Sandra M. Edgerley, Immediate Past Chair

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BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF BOSTON



YouthConnect

(Formerly Youth Service Providers Network)

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*Clinical social workers connecting
at-risk youth to positive choices,
in partnership with the
Boston Police Department.*

About YouthConnect

YouthConnect, formerly YSPN, is an innovative BGCB program that works in partnership with the Boston Police Department to place licensed, clinical social workers at police stations. Since its inception in 1996, the program has served more than 9,800 of the city's most at-risk youth and families. YouthConnect social workers develop relationships with youth who are at risk for arrest, as well as those who are already part of the Juvenile Justice system. The aim is to help young people develop more trusting relationships and offer them choices through a program comprising:

- voluntary clinical services
- referrals
- advocacy
- counseling
- guidance of a caring adult

"I am proud to support YouthConnect, whose innovative approach to dealing with at-risk youth has been recognized nationally. I know that the members of the Boston Police Department are as happy as I am for their partnership."

– Mayor Thomas M. Menino

YouthConnect Leadership

Andrea Perry, LICSW, Executive Director
Denise Kasrawi, LICSW, Clinical Director
Liz Silverman, Advisory Board Chair
Ronald M. Ansin, Honorary Advisory Board Chair

How YouthConnect Works

Social workers are deployed to put young people and their families in contact with a comprehensive safety net of services. Young people referred to YouthConnect are either engaged in delinquent activity, or at high risk of engaging in such activity. After referral, the youth receive assistance under a four-tiered system:

- intake and assessment
- resource coordination
- short-term clinical case management
- therapy services

Locations

YouthConnect works alongside the Boston Police Department with a focus on the following neighborhoods:

- Charlestown
- Dorchester
- Jamaica Plain
- Mattapan
- Roxbury
- South Boston
- South End/
Lower Roxbury

Additionally, YouthConnect extends its reach through the city-wide units of the Youth Violence Strike Force and School Police Unit.

Proven Results

A study sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found the following significant changes in YouthConnect clients:

- 59% reduction in weapon carrying
- 64% reduction in aggressive behavior
- 71% reduction in victimization