through
Out-of-School
Time

City of
Harrisonburg
and
Boys & Girls
Clubs





# PROTECTING YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

The U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory

- US Office of the Surgeon General has declared youth mental health a crisis.
- 1 in 5 U.S. children ages 3-17 has a mental, emotional, behavioral, or developmental disorder.
- 42% of local high school respondents to the Youth Risk Behavior Survey reported feeling persistent sadness or hopelessness.
- Despite growing need, school and community-based services are limited, especially in rural areas.



## BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF HARRISONBURG & ROCKINGHAM COUNTY



- 7 Clubs 6 Locations (City & County)
- Year-Round Experiences and Enrichment
- Bridges the Gap between School and Home
- Focus on the Whole Person

#### Goal

1: Increase BGCHR staff capacity to respond to the mental health needs of program  $\tau \tau \wedge 11 + h$ 



Hire Mental Health Advocate (MHA) / Graduate Assistant (GA)



MHA/GA Consultations for Staff



BGCHR and HCPS Staff Training Trauma
Informed Care
Practices (x2)
Co-regulation
Strategies
Supporting
Neurodivergent
Youth

Incorporate evidencebased intervent ns to increase youth social, emotion , and behavioral skills.







Goal 3: Increase youth and family connections to mental health and

other community-

based services.

Ongoing

MHA/GA Consultation s and Connections to Services Oct. 2024

Support & Training Interest Form Distributed

June 2025

Summer Orientation



Lights On Events

Oct. 2024

Family Engagement Events

Apr/May 2025 Goal 4: Enhance data collection and evaluation to inform program design and improve outcomes.

ARET Group

JMU Madison Center for Community Development Goal 5: Engage stakeholders and promote program sustainability.

\$12,000 Sentara Cares \$12,000

Burke & Hurbert

Continued grant seeking



#### Youth

- Personal behaviors (K-2)
- Hyperactivity & peer problems (gr3-12)
- Improvement in personal and prosocial behaviors (K-2)
- Improvement in overall skills,

#### Outcomes To Date

#### Staff

- Improved understanding of topics.
- Challenges: time and resources, part-time staff knowledge, and staff turnover.



#### Family

- Helping their child be safe in a digital world
- Helping their child cope with anxiety



### Future Directions

- (1)On-site access to therapeutic services. Partnership JMU Department of Graduate Psychology & CAPS
- (2) Graduate Assistant to serve as Family Wellness Navigator
- (3) Expand services for parents
- (4) Implement programming and evaluation at County Clubs











Thank you to all BGCHR project partners and all BGCHR staff and youth!

City of Harrisonburg

Harrisonburg-Rockingham Community Service Board

Harrisonburg City Public Schools

James Madison University (Madison Center for Community Development & Department of Graduate Psychology)