Together we can be advocates for youth
The safety and wellbeing of all children and youth is our number one priority at BGCGTC. Our organizational commitment to ensuring safe spaces for kids is not only about physical safety, but also their emotional wellness. Our Club members recognize that we have an opportunity to match our obligation in creating elevating safety for all kids. As the access to technology for children grows, predatory targeting through digital platforms and social media pose threats to both physical and emotional safety of our youth. Issue areas such as Child Trafficking and Gang Violence have risen to the top of the conversation. Additionally, advocating for basic needs support services that help families to meet the needs of the whole child.

**ISSUE:**
Youth and children that represent minority groups of any kind are in a constant battle to reconcile their human rights with their civil rights, and to find supportive programs and services to help them navigate complicated systems that may threaten family construction or personal livelihood. The overwhelming majority of youth served by BGCGTC fall into a minority category of some sort: LBGTQA+, immigrant and/or ethnic minorities. In particular, support for youth of undocumented parents that face barriers accessing basic needs and health resources for fear of deportation as a result of engaging in the system.

**PROPOSED SOLUTION:**
To identify partners and resources to advocate for civil rights support for minority youth and families served by BGCGTC.

**ISSUE:**
As our local and national economies struggle in the midst of a global pandemic, under-resourced communities are disproportionately affected by the lack of access to jobs, capital, and basic needs. When added financial pressure is placed on parents needing to make ends meet, youth experience a weakening support system at home. For many of our older youth, there is also the burden of needing to contribute to the home financially, or by providing child/elder care to younger siblings.

**PROPOSED SOLUTION:**
To develop a network of partners and employers to provide skills training, job and internship opportunities for youth that do not otherwise have support systems in their lives to guide/equip them in these basic and necessary life skills. Additionally, to advocate for expanded curriculums that promote life skills courses such as financial literacy.

**ISSUE:**
The safety and wellbeing of all children and youth is our number one priority at BGCGTC. Our organizational commitment to ensuring safe spaces for kids is not only about physical safety, but also their emotional wellness. Our Club members recognize that we have an opportunity to match our obligation in creating elevating safety for all kids. As the access to technology for children grows, predatory targeting through digital platforms and social media pose threats to both physical and emotional safety of our youth. Issue areas such as Child Trafficking and Gang Violence have risen to the top of the conversation. Additionally, advocating for basic needs support services that help families to meet the needs of the whole child.

**PROPOSED SOLUTION:**
To create an education and awareness platform that gives youth access to information, training, and resources on how to best protect themselves from dangerous situations, while also being a leading advocate for more investment into mental health services and programs for youth.
AGENDA FOR YOUTH - CATALYST FOR CHANGE

THE ABILITY AND WILLINGNESS TO CHAMPION CHANGE INITIATIVES AT THE LOCAL, STATE, AND NATIONAL LEVELS FOR THE KIDS AND COMMUNITIES SERVED BY BGCGTC WILL BRING NEW RESOURCES TO THE ORGANIZATION THAT LEADS TO SYSTEMIC CHANGES THAT WILL IMPACT A GENERATION. TO BE A CONVENER OF OUR YOUTH, ORGANIZATIONAL AND COMMUNITY LEADERS HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO MOVE BGCGTC TO THE FOREFRONT OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THAT LEADS TO MORE RESOURCES AND FUNDING TO SUPPORT YOUTH. OUR OPPORTUNITY TO BE FIRST TO THE TABLE ON ISSUES AFFECTING YOUTH POSITIONS US TO BE REGARDED AS THE LEADING AGENCY SERVING YOUTH IN TARRANT COUNTY.

THE BACKBONE OF THE BGCGTC AGENDA FOR YOUTH WILL CONSTRUCTED ON (5) BUILDING PRINCIPLES:

1. PEOPLE BUILDING
   Investment of training and development resources to educate and equip staff and youth with tools to advance change initiatives.

2. PROGRAM BUILDING
   Offering content and programs that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion for youth and staff.

3. PARTNER BUILDING
   Sourcing and securing a network of public and private sector partners to provide support for change initiatives.

4. POLICY BUILDING
   Identifying issues that have policies or resources at the local, state, or federal level that impacts our ability to move change initiatives forward.

5. PLATFORM BUILDING
   Developing an advocacy messaging strategy for key audiences and influencers to promote the BGCGTC Agenda for Youth.

IN 2020, THE TOP STRATEGIES FOR BGCGTC TO INITIATE CHANGE:

- YOUTH-LED VOTING REGISTRATION CAMPAIGN BEGINNING IN AUGUST.

- CONVENTION OF YOUTH TASK FORCE AND COMMUNITY LEADERS THIS FALL.

- ISSUES AWARENESS, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING PROGRAM FOR YOUTH AND STAFF TO LAUNCH THIS FALL.