These are just a few of the worries from our kids as we all grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Crisis Facing Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana

COVID-19 is affecting families in Acadiana in a variety of ways:
- 2,221 kids qualified for free/reduced lunch now no longer have access
- 73% live at or below the poverty line and face potential job losses
- 1,754 families we serve are isolated at home in this crisis

Parents are concerned about their kids, their jobs, their futures
- I have children and parents to care for. What if I get sick?
- What if I lose my job and can’t pay my rent or buy groceries?
- If our kids do not go back to school “soon” how will I be able to work?
- How will my kids keep learning?

How Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana Is Responding

FOOD AND NUTRITION
- Kids who rely on the breakfast and lunch programs at school will be able to access healthy meals through a partnership with the school systems. We connected 100% of those families in need with the resources to access food.

LEARNING
- We are strengthening our virtual programming to ensure kids are still learning in the out-of-school time through targeted and engaging activities. Our virtual programming launch date is scheduled for Monday, April 6th on our Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana at Home Facebook page.
- Other learning sites that Club members can access at home are listed at www.bgcacadiana.com
- BGCA is also collaborating with Cox to enable all Club members online access and the tools they need to participate in virtual programming.

SOCIAL SOLUTIONS
- Staff members are calling current Club members families at home so they can hear a familiar voice and have someone to talk to during this scary time.
- Staff are also facilitating small group video calls to connect club members and engage them in positive conversations and social interaction along with fun, interest-based programming. For kids who do not have cell phones, this can be a lifeline
Club members have access to a variety of online resources and can utilize the online platforms such as MyFuture.net and Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana at Home Facebook page for safe, social interaction online.

Overcoming This Crisis Together

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana can’t wait to re-open our doors and see our club kids in person! In the meantime, kids and teens need us now more than ever before and our organization has responded with innovative programs to meet their needs.

When we do re-open, our focus will be on bridging the gap between time lost in school and time lost with friends. Club programs, such as “Power Hour” and “Money Matters,” will get kids back on track in an engaging manner. Reconnecting with friends, spending time with mentors and heroes, interacting with guest speakers, and going on field trips will provide opportunities for fun and connection for our club kids.

Many in our community will need an affordable, safe place for their kids after school and during the summer. Our 50 years of focus on safe clubs, quality programming, and well-trained staff is unwavering and is vital to rebuilding our communities in Lafayette, St. Landry, Vermilion and Iberia parishes.

Will You Stand with Us to Support the Kids of Acadiana?

Join us as we respond to our community in crisis. Your gift today helps kids today! Your gift provides:

$5,000 Virtual infrastructure and preparations for the increase in demand when Clubs re-open

$2,500 1 day of programming, training & small group mentoring for 850 kids

$1,000 Ongoing, targeted outreach to 850 kids to ensure adequate resources (food, technology, activities & programs)

$500 8 hours of essential training for 8 staff members

$100 4 hours of online programming for 35 kids

Donations can be made at www.bgxacadiana.com/donate-today or through SOLA Giving Day.

Thank you for your continued support of Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana!

The Mission of Boys & Girls Club of Acadiana is to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana is an incredible value for families, providing $287 of services for an annual membership fee of just $20. And, we provide value to the entire community — for every $1 invested in Boys & Girls Clubs in Louisiana $9.60 in economic benefits is returned to youth, families and society. Your support increases the earning power of parents now and youth in the future and saves societal costs such as healthcare, public assistance and incarceration.