



CareOregon
Boys & Girls Club
at Rockwood

Partnership Report

2023

 CareOregon®



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
at Rockwood



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CareOregon was honored to make a significant **10-year investment** in the Boys & Girls Club of Portland Metropolitan Area back in 2021—and as a result, the organization's Rockwood Club became the CareOregon Boys & Girls Club at Rockwood. Together, we've worked to help foster a stronger region for kids and families with an intentional focus on improving access to services and support in Rockwood.

Since we joined forces in 2021, Boys & Girls Club has been able to significantly ramp up quality programming through four core competency areas while giving Club members access to more healthy and nutritious snacks and meals during out-of-school time hours.

“Our strategic partnership with CareOregon bolsters our efforts to address systemic disparities in the communities we serve. This partnership is game-changing and the impact translates directly to our Club members and their families.”

– Terry Johnson
Boys & Girls Club CEO

By the numbers

- ▶ Nearly **50%** of Rockwood residents qualify for the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) — making Rockwood home to the highest concentration of OHP members in the region.
- ▶ **90%** of youth in Boys & Girls Club of Portland qualify for free or reduced school lunches.
- ▶ Nearly **60%** of those 18 and under in the surrounding ZIP codes identify as people of color.



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Our long-range goals

- ▶ Leveraging CareOregon expertise and existing Boys & Girls Club forums to better connect families with information and support available through OHP
- ▶ Designing programs and services to address Club families' social needs
- ▶ Establishing regular volunteer opportunities for CareOregon staff to support Club operations

Program year 2 summary

Both organizations collaborated to create and execute a Program Year 2 workplan (April 2023 to April 2024). In our second year, we continued to expand how we support and show up for Club members and their families. We worked together to help create and support programs and services to address Club families' needs such as food and nutrition support, including helping fund the Club Café food program to increase access to free, healthy meals.

Together, we helped build a stronger sense of community by embracing our role as campus partners. We dedicated staff time, resources and spent volunteer

hours cleaning up the campus and surrounding neighborhood.

We also had some fun at the 2023 Junior Parade, with the CareOregon Boys & Girls Club kids and families dancing and marching in support of one another.

Now, as our partnership continues to grow, we are looking forward to what's next—including partnering on a behavioral health campaign that addresses youth mental health through a mural project and providing educational opportunities in Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion that will help Club staff better serve members.



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CareOregon invests \$50,000 to support the Club Café food program

To address food insecurity and ensure youth have access to healthy food options, CareOregon is helping fund the Club Café food program. This offers free daily meals and snacks to Club youth during the school year and the eight weeks of summer programming while providing nutrition education to build long-term healthy habits. Additionally, the program offers families access to free food through monthly family nights and other community events.

The funding also supports staff salaries and food purchases and helps revitalize food programming at Clubs, focusing on ways to best address food insecurity and deepen our impact in the community.

"This grant and our partnership with CareOregon helps ensure we continue to target food insecurity and provide our community access to fresh foods when they need it," said Terry Johnson, Boys & Girls Club CEO. "Many of our youth face barriers to success, including food insecurity. Our Club Café is an opportunity for us to provide nutritious foods to our club youth during the school year and help ensure we continue to provide our community access to free meals when they need it."

"Along with providing basic needs and equipping youth with the tools to develop lifelong healthy habits and take ownership of their personal health and well-being, together, we can help ensure Oregon youth have access to meals and healthy lifestyles that are essential to making their great futures a reality,"

– Shawn DeCarlo,
Director of Community
Impact at CareOregon



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Key accomplishments in Program Year 2

(April 2023 to April 2024)

▲ **Junior Parade:** The CareOregon Boys & Girls Club at Rockwood was front and center in the 'Absolutely Everyone' section of the 2023 Fred Meyer Junior Parade. They showcased their commitment to the community and youth with dancers and other performers, while CareOregon staff marched alongside in support of the Club and our 10-year partnership.



◀ **Volunteerism at BGC:** In 2023, CareOregon staff volunteered 100 hours across multiple events. Volunteers were involved in Club beautification, supply organizing, cleaning, garden maintenance and planting. Volunteerism at the CareOregon Boys & Girls Club is important to enhancing our partnership, deepening our connection to the Club and their work and helping us promote equity and inspire success and wellness for the youth and families in the Rockwood neighborhood.

"The opportunity for staff to engage with the CareOregon Boys & Girls Club has been incredibly rewarding. It's also a perfect way for our staff to learn more about the mission and vision of the Club and grow our partnership in the process."

– Kayleen Van Duzer,
Senior Community
Impact and Events
Specialist at CareOregon

On the horizon

Mental Health Murals — CareOregon Boys & Girls Club at Rockwood

As part of our behavioral health campaign to support youth mental health, CareOregon partnered with the Boys & Girls Club at Rockwood to include a mural in their teen center. The mural was conceptualized and created by local Portland artist Daren Todd of Art Larger Than Me.

Developing cross-cultural communication training

In our commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, CareOregon is developing a training opportunity for Club staff on cross-cultural communication. The event's focus is to enhance intercultural communication between staff, and the members they serve, to help them better navigate the nuances of how different cultures communicate. The training will be led by Dr. James Mason, Chief Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Officer at CareOregon.

Family Night

The CareOregon Connect to Care team is participating in Family Night at the Club to connect more families to information and resources that will better help them navigate the health care system.

"This partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of Rockwood is a remarkable one, allowing us to scale our impact through the years. Together, we tackle barriers to health by expanding access to resources that support youth, families and the Rockwood neighborhood. We are focused on continuing to bring systemic-level change through this work, and our hope is that we can improve the health of our community now, and for many years into the future."

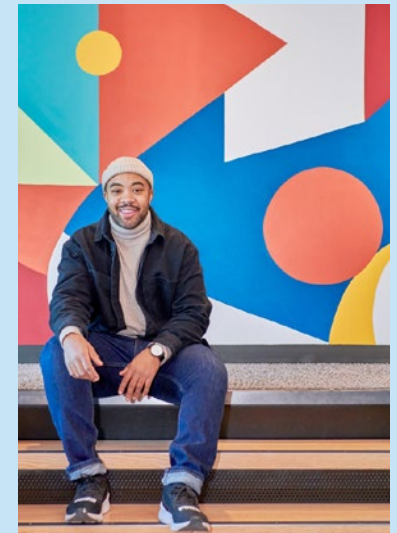
– Eric C. Hunter,
CareOregon President and CEO

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Artist spotlight: Daren Todd



Portland artist Daren Todd was selected to create a mural for the Boys & Girls Club at Rockwood. See his work at artlargerthanme.com

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