



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF GREATER SALEM

Change the world, start with a child.



Dear Friend,

Picture 12-year-old Josh joyfully sprinting down the Boys & Girls Club hallway, calling to his friends to join him in the game room.

See his smile ear to ear.

Hear his sounds of laughter.

Feel his happiness.

Sadly, this wasn't always the picture of Josh.

For many years, his Mom Rosa describes Josh as a tightly closed flower bud; lots of potential but afraid to bloom.

Rosa and her children moved from the United States Virgin Islands to Pennsylvania where Josh and his younger brother Omar were born. Here they encountered

rampant gang violence, and Rosa was petrified for her children's safety daily.

One night, Rosa awoke to sounds from the street and was horrified to see a gang beating a 15-year-old boy. She called the police immediately, but while on the phone she witnessed the gang shoot this young boy dead.

Can you imagine the horror?

Rosa became the primary witness for the trial and was scared to death for her family's safety. As soon as the trial was over, they moved to Salem where a family member lived.

Once settled, Rosa enrolled both boys into the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Salem. Rosa wanted to keep Josh safe after school while she worked. She hoped he would make friends, try new things and come out of his shell.

Because of your kindness and compassion, Josh and Omar have been active members of the Club for many years. Your contributions allow these brothers and hundreds of other children to have a safe place to go after school where they are challenged, enriched and inspired.

As a single working parent, Rosa could not afford after school care. She was relieved to know that all children can join the Club for only \$25 for the academic year. As a supporter of our Club, you gave Rosa peace of mind.

You brought the thrill of skateboarding to Omar, as he built a skateboard from the ground up and spent months honing his skills and learning safety rules. Omar developed a love of reading and Sabrina, our Education Director, finds him a quiet place to read each afternoon.

Your gift is vital because it allows children like Omar and Josh to complete their homework with tutoring assistance every day. Omar appreciates getting his work done at the Club so he doesn't have to worry about it at home. Josh knows he would be too distracted if he were home alone. In the past Josh hid his homework to avoid discomfort, but with Rosa's consistent communication with our Staff, as a team we were able to get him on track.

You have given Omar the chance to become a role model to his friends. He actively reminds others to do their best and to be patient with themselves even when things don't work out.

My staff remember how shy and quiet Josh was when he first came to the Club. He was extremely reluctant to try anything new. With support and encouragement, Josh has blossomed. Donors like you give Josh opportunities to have a diverse group of friends, develop a sense of humor and enjoy making others laugh.

Rosa works hard at her job and assumed greater responsibility because you give her sons a safe and fun place to go after school each day and all summer long.

You can make a lasting difference in the lives of children like Omar and Josh. Every gift makes an impact.

Please contribute to Omar and Josh's safety. Please give so local kids can do their homework with help. Please donate so girls and boys can happily skip down the hallway with smiles ear to ear.

[Every child needs help to blossom. Every child needs a helping hand. You can be theirs.](#)

Please donate today using the reply envelope or visit www.bgcgs.org/donate/.

Thank you for your consideration.

Grace Duran

Grace Duran, Program Director



Friends: Omar Dennis Marshall

PS [Every child needs to blossom!](#)
[Every child needs a helping hand!](#)
[You can be theirs](#)
[by making a gift today!](#)