



### **Jim Clark, 2023 Ethics in Action Recipient**

President and CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of America

As leader of the nation’s largest facility-based youth development organization, Mr. Clark directs a 115-year old network of 4,700 Boys & Girls Clubs that serve 4.6 million young people annually in all 50 states and on U.S. military installations worldwide.

Since joining BGCA in 2012, Mr. Clark has spearheaded a major restructuring of the organization and introduced an exciting new strategy to allow more youth to achieve positive outcomes in three priority areas: [academic success](#), [good character and citizenship](#), and [healthy lifestyles](#). To support Boys & Girls Clubs in fostering these vital outcomes, Mr. Clark emphasizes the importance of building organizational capacity, improving program quality and consistency, expanding the Boys & Girls Club national network and positioning BGCA as the nation’s leading advocate for youth.

Under Mr. Clark’s leadership, BGCA originated a national youth outcomes study that supports continuous quality improvement and demonstrates the impact of the Club experience in the areas of education, leadership and health outcomes, as documented in the organization’s annual [National Youth Outcomes Report](#). BGCA continues to introduce programming that supports the three outcome areas, including STEM initiatives, summer learning loss programs and workforce readiness programs.

With a commitment to support local Club success, Mr. Clark is leading efforts to strengthen digital capabilities within Boys & Girls Clubs. This includes [MyFuture.net](#), a web platform where youth can learn digital skills; [YD Toolbox](#), a mobile communications app for Club staff; and MyClubHub, a comprehensive site management system. Additionally, BGCA supports local Club success with training and consultations to augment key areas including child safety, executive and board development, high school graduation rate and childhood obesity.



For these and similar efforts, *The Chronicle of Philanthropy* ranks BGCA the top youth-serving organization. Notable milestones during Mr. Clark's tenure include Boys & Girls Clubs serving nearly 470,000 youth daily in 2019 – up more than 20% since he joined BGCA in 2012 – and a record \$2.1 billion in revenues in 2018, an increase of 46% since 2012.

Mr. Clark began his career at the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel in 1979, where he served senior leadership roles in distribution, marketing and customer service operations and advanced to senior vice president. In 2004, he departed the media company after 24 years to become president and CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee, which he served as a board member for 10 years. Under his direction, the organization benefitted from seven consecutive years of revenue growth, added 17 new service locations, realized a 30% increase in membership and more than doubled staff during his seven-year tenure.

Mr. Clark holds a business administration degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He and his wife, Samantha, live in Atlanta with their two sons.

Character.org hosted the John Winthrop Wright Ethics in Action Award during its annual forum in Washington, DC on November 7, 2023. Peter Donovan introduced and presented the award to Mr. Clark.