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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Boys and Girls Club Receives 2025 Community Grant**

*\$5,000 Grant Supports Youth Programs in Dorchester and Thorndale*

**THAMES CENTRE** – Today the Boys and Girls Club of London (BGC London) received \$5,000 in funding from Thames Centre’s Community Partnership Grant program.

BGC London co-ordinates classes, workshops, games, and activities in Dorchester and Thorndale throughout the year, including the *March Break Adventure Club* currently underway at the FlightExec Centre.

“We’re glad to support the Boys and Girls Club,” said Mayor Sharron McMillan. “Their activities help local children learn valuable life skills, and their programs provide a supportive space for youths to explore their interests in programs that teach arts and sciences.”

The Community Grant was awarded after a competitive application process. Over \$40,000 in Community Grants were awarded this year, after Council reallocated *Council Initiatives* funds to increase the money available for Community Grants.

“We are incredibly grateful to Thames Centre for their support through the Community Partnership Grant program,” noted Brett Gatt, CEO of BGC London. “With 25 years of mental health experience, I can confidently say that this investment exponentially enhances outcomes for children, youth, families, and communities, today and for the future.”

BGC's social and recreational programs play a crucial role in supporting the social, mental health, and educational development of children and youth. Research shows that participation in such programs leads to improved social skills, better mental health outcomes, and higher academic achievement.

“These grants are an essential part of staying engaged with residents, and supporting programs that benefit the whole community,” according to CAO David Barrick. “This particular grant will promote active living among our younger residents.”

For questions related to BGC London’s programs in Dorchester and Thorndale, contact Whitney at [ruralityouthprograms@bgclondon.ca](mailto:ruralityouthprograms@bgclondon.ca).

For more information on the Community Grant program, please view our website at <https://www.thamescentre.on.ca/community-partnership-grants>.

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