BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF ACADIANA ANNUAL REPORT



2024



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF ACADIANA

WHO WE ARE

Our Mission:

To empower all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible citizens.

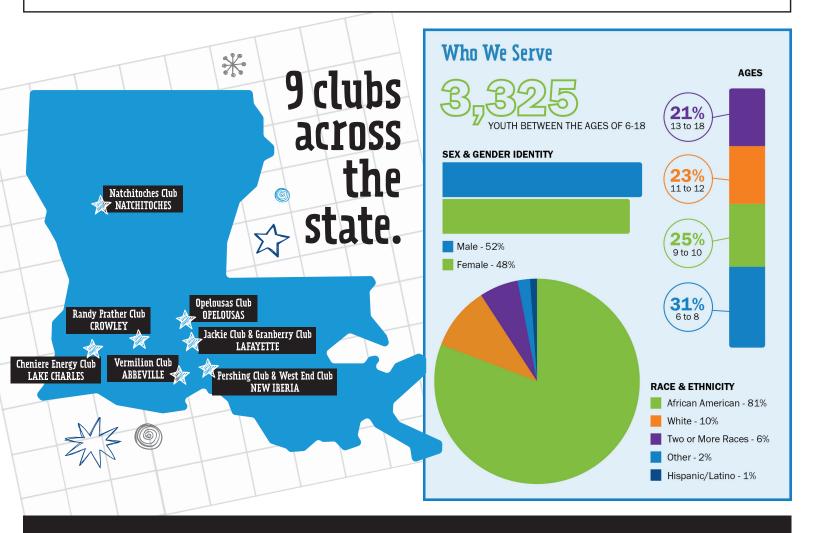
Our Vision:

To provide a world-class club experience that assures success is within reach of every young person who enters our doors with all members on track to graduate from high school with a plan for the future, demonstrating good character and citizenship, and living a healthy lifestyle.

Our Values:

Integrity - Communication - Accountability - Respect - Excellence







PARISHES SERVED

Lafayette • Calcasieu • Iberia • Vermilion Acadia • Natchitoches • St. Landry



Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on another remarkable year at Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana, we are proud to share the continued growth and impact we've achieved together in serving our community, especially the youth and families who need us most. 2024 has been a year of advancement, and we are excited to highlight some of the key milestones that have propelled our mission forward.

Expanding Our Reach with the Randy Prather Boys & Girls Club in Crowley

This year, we marked a significant achievement with the opening of the Randy Prather Boys & Girls Club in Crowley. This new facility stands as a beacon of hope and opportunity, offering a safe, welcoming space for young people to grow, learn, and thrive. The opening of this new club represents more than just a building—it's a tangible expression of our ongoing commitment to creating communities where children and families can prosper. We are excited to see this new hub of opportunity become a cornerstone of our outreach in the Crowley area.

Focus on Quality Programs through the Youth Impact Network

In 2024, Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana signed up to be part of the National Youth Impact Network, an18-month long immersion program dedicated to improving program quality. This network has played a crucial role in providing our staff with the skills, resources, and support they need to empower our youth to overcome challenges and achieve success in life. From trauma informed care to life skills development, we are focused on ensuring that every child has access to programs that foster personal growth and positive change.

Building Strong Partnerships to Connect Youth and Families with Resources

In today's world, no organization can succeed in isolation. That's why we remain deeply committed to building strategic partnerships that connect youth and families with resources. From local businesses and schools to community organizations and government agencies, these partnerships help us address critical needs such as food security, academic tutoring, job training, and family support services. By working together with partners, we can ensure that the youth we serve are not only equipped with opportunities but also surrounded by a network of support that empowers them to thrive.

Unlocking Greatness: Investing in Our Future

This year also marked the launch of our Unlocking Greatness Initiative, a bold new effort to ensure that our programs, facilities, and resources continue to evolve and meet the growing needs of our communities. Through this initiative, we are focused on four pillars:

Enhanced Programs: Enriching our offerings to address the personal and professional growth needs of today's youth, ensuring our programs are tailored to help them thrive both inside and outside the classroom while equipping them with the skills necessary for success in an ever-evolving world.

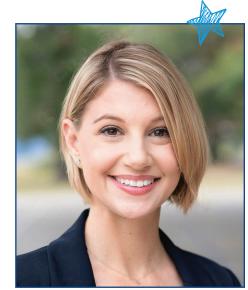
Experiences and Exposure for Youth: Providing meaningful experiences that broaden their horizons and inspire them to dream bigger, helping them build confidence, spark curiosity, and develop aspirations for a brighter future.

World-class Facilities: Upgrading and maintaining our facilities, ensuring they remain safe, inspiring, and conducive to learning and growth.

Sustainability: Strengthening our long-term impact through investments in sustainability initiatives, ensuring that our programs remain resilient and adaptable for generations to come.

By investing in these areas, together, we will keep breaking barriers, expanding access, and creating pathways to success for every child and family in our community.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to our mission and for being a part of this journey.



Rhyan Shea Wheeler

CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana

To Board, Staff, and Supporters of Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana:

As I conclude my term as Chairman of Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana, I do so with a sense of fulfillment and resolve. The work we have done together is proof that purpose, courage, and unwavering action can create extraordinary results. The youth we serve are not just the beneficiaries of our efforts; they are the builders of their own futures, given the tools to rise by their own strength and seize the lives they choose to create.

These past two years have been some of the most meaningful of my life. I have witnessed firsthand the courage of youth who refuse to let their circumstances define them and the unwavering commitment of staff and volunteers who dedicate themselves to building something that truly matters. Together, we have been part of something extraordinary: a space where hope grows into action, and action becomes transformation.

The staff of Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana are not simply employees. They are creators. They are individuals who choose to dedicate their time and energy to something meaningful, something lasting. Their work is not just a job; it is a conscious act of building, of taking raw potential and shaping it into greatness. Every program they implement, every young person they guide, every obstacle they overcome is a declaration of their belief in the power of effort, the value of purpose. And the limitless potential of the human spirit.

I also want to acknowledge the leaders who came before me, the past chairs and members of this organization. These are not people who sought comfort or easy praise. They are individuals who understand the responsibility of leadership, to dream of what could be and to act, unwaveringly, to make it real. They built the foundation upon which this organization stands, not for recognition but because they believed in the value of their work and the future it would create.

As I pass the mantle to Edward, I do so with the certainty that he embodies the qualities of leadership that will propel this organization forward. Edward is not only a man of intellect and strength but one of conviction, a leader who will not falter under the weight of responsibility but will embrace it as a challenge to achieve more, to go further, to build greater. He will push this organization to new heights, guided by a vision of what can and must be done. Under his guidance, Boys & Girls Club of Acadiana will continue to grow, to evolve, and to excel.

This organization exists because of one fundamental truth: every young person deserves the opportunity to grow, to thrive, and to become the architect of their own destiny. Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana is not a handout, but a hand-up, a place

where young minds are given the tools to build their futures and the courage to claim them. It has been my honor to contribute to this mission and to see it succeed in ways that affirm the value of individual effort and the strength of a collective vision.

To those who have stood with us, who see the purpose and necessity of this work, I thank you. To those who see the youth we serve not as projects, but as individuals with boundless potential, I am grateful.

What we leave behind will not be luck or change, it will be the undeniable result of our choices and our resolve.

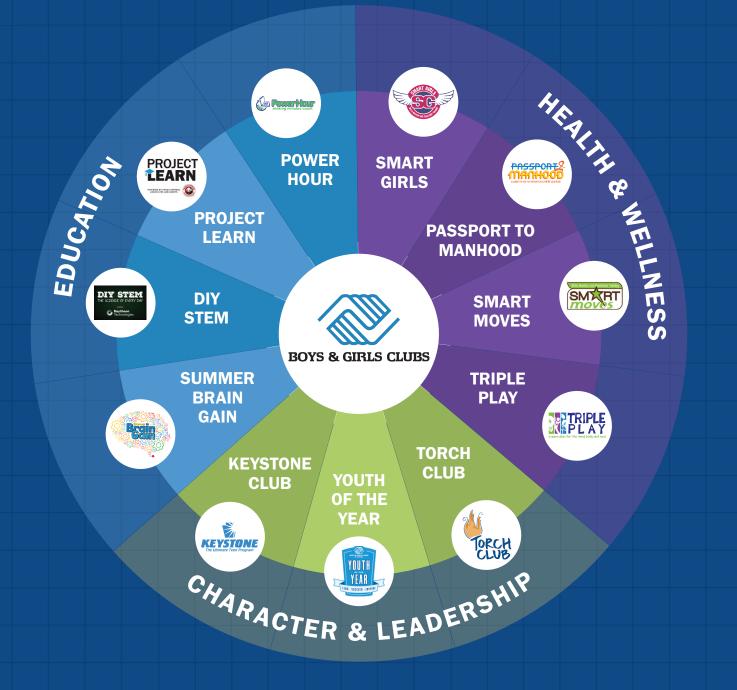
Joe Spell
Board Chairman,
Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana





IMPACT AREA PROGRAMS

To best meet the needs of youth in all communities, Boys & Girls Clubs offers tested, proven and nationally recognized programs that closely align with the developmental needs of all young people. Program implementation focuses on three impact areas to put young people on the path to great futures.



Education

Education programs are designed to ensure all Club members graduate from high school on time, ready for a post-secondary education, and a 21st-century career.

Health & Wellness

Focusing on physical, mental, and emotional wellness, the Clubs help develop young people's capacity to engage in positive behaviors to nurture their well-being, set personal goals, and grow into self-sufficient adults.

Character & Leadership

Boys & Girls Clubs are committed to help youth become responsible, caring citizens. Participants develop leadership skills and gain opportunities for planning, decision-making, contributing to the Club and community, and celebrating national heritage.

ANATOMY OF A CLUB KID

GOOD CHARACTER

Responsibility through mentorship.

VOLUNTEER-MINDED

Active in community service.

POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS

Built on trust and support.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

On track to graduate from high school.

HAPPY

Strong self confidence.

AUTHENTICITY

Safe to be themselves in a positive environment.

GROUNDED

By fundamentals and good citizenship.

EMPOWERED

Through effective programs.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

EQUIPPED

Tools needed for success.

HEALTHY HABITS

Life-long healthy decision-making.

CHENTERE ENERGY CLUB

3520 Greinwich Blvd. Lake Charles, LA 70607 337.508.2250 | Club Director: Cheryl Ceasar







EAST PERSHING CLUB

430 E. Pershing St. New Iberia, LA 70560 337.364.7040 | Club Director: Brianna Davis



GRANBERRY CLUB

121 S. Washington St. Lafayette, LA 70501 337.232.6401 | Club Director: Eric Jolivette

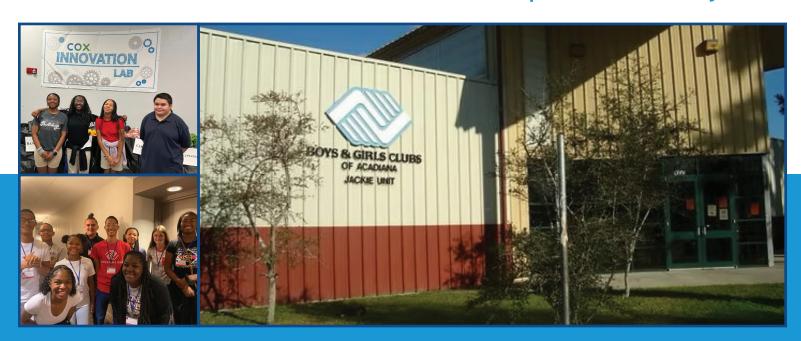






JACKIE CLUB

1000 Marie Antoinette Lafayette, LA 70506 337.988.2582 | Club Director: Eboney Breaux



NATCHITOCHES CLUB

400 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. Natchitoches, LA 71457 318.238.2205 | Club Director: De'Andrea Sanders







OPELOUSAS CLUB

814 E. Laurent St. Opelousas, LA 70570 337.407.9962 | Club Director: Aaron Williams



WEST END CLUB

1200 Field St. New Iberia, LA 70560
337.369.0445 | Club Director: D'Andre Hypolite







VERMILION CLUB

301 A.A. Comeaux Memorial Dr. Abbeville, LA 70510 337.898.9745 | Club Director: Brittney Griffith



RANDY PRATHER CLUB

1120 W. Hutchinson Ave. Crowley, LA 70526 337.398.7700 | Club Director: Glenda Huval



Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana Welcomes New Club in Crowley, LA.

Boys & Girls Club of Acadiana is proud to welcome its 9th Club, Randy Prather Club in Crowley, Louisiana. This state-of-the-art facility is designed to offer a safe and nurturing environment where children and teens can participate in a variety of programs, including academic support, arts, sports, and leadership development.

"After years of hard work and commitment from the Crowley community, supporters, and Boys & Girls Club staff, we are incredibly excited to open the doors of the Randy Prather Boys & Girls Club. The Club named after Randy Prather, President of First National Bank of Louisiana, has been an advocate for providing youth with a safe place, positive mentors, and opportunities to discover their full potential," said Rhyan Wheeler, President & CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana. "We want to thank our longtime supporters COX for their investment in the COX Innovation Lab, where youth have access to state-of-the-art technology. The Randy Prather Boys & Girls Club represents our ongoing commitment to providing opportunities to youth throughout the state."

In addition to welcoming the new Club, Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana celebrated the launch of a new technology-filled Innovation Lab. Cox Innovation Labs are the cornerstone of Boys & Girls Clubs of America's Club Tech program, which provides students access to curriculum to advance their computer literacy skills and help bridge the digital divide for children without access to a computer or internet connection at home.

Within the new Randy Prather Club, the Cox Innovation Lab will give local Boys & Girls Club members the freedom to explore their interest in STEM while providing those without a computer or internet access a way to get connected and manage through distance learning. The lab includes TVs, laptop computers, gaming chairs, tablets, Wifi and internet services provided by Cox.



Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana Receives Awards Honoring Outstanding Programs and Dedicated Supporters



Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana attended the 2024 Annual Louisiana Area Council, a ceremony celebrating the remarkable contributions, successes, and achievements in programs for Clubs across the region. This year's award recipients for Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana include a diverse group who have demonstrated extraordinary commitment to the mission of the Boys & Girls Clubs: to empower all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible citizens.

Award Categories and Recipients:



Professional of the Year Award: Tamara Anthony

Director of Operations whose commitment and innovation have greatly enriched the lives of our members for over 27 years.

Outstanding Program Award: Deep Dive Learning Adventures - Cheniere Energy Boys & Girls Club in Lake Charles, LA Recognized for its excellence in delivering an "Under the Sea" summer programming that addresses the needs and aspirations of young people in our community.

Outstanding Program Award: Club Leader-In-Training – Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana New Iberia Units

Provide youth with an opportunity to explore diverse career paths, cultivate essential skills to enhance their value to future employers, and apply these skills both within the club and in the broader community. Participants engage in activities such as creating professional resumes and developing crucial soft skills, including time management, interpersonal communication, and conflict resolution.

New Board Member of the Year: Jhordi Henderson, COX Communications

Jhordi, alumni of Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana, has demonstrated exceptional dedication by actively participating in board meetings, committees, and mentoring Club youth. Through his employer, Jhordi and his COX team provided invaluable services to our Clubs to ready them for program sessions, showcasing a deep commitment to our cause.

Board Member of the Year: Joe Spell, Tides Medical

Joe has embraced his role as Chairman of the Board with exceptional dedication and commitment. His leadership exemplifies the qualities of an outstanding leader and has significantly enhanced the effectiveness and impact of the Board, demonstrating what it means to lead with both vision and heart.

Board Team of the Year: Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana

Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana excels in strategic vision and leveraging diverse expertise to guide the organization towards long-term goals. They ensure effective governance through clear policies, strong communication, and active engagement. Their commitment to the mission drives the overall organizational success.

C.A.R.E. Award (Children are the Reason for Excellence): Arelene and Michelle Hargroder, Courtesy Automotive Group

Courtesy Automotive Group hosted the 2nd Annual Training4Life event, a day with hands-on activities focused on building confidence and leadership. Participants enjoyed hearing from motivational speakers, took part in a talent show, engaged in fun activities, and were provided delicious food, themed shirts, sweatshirts, and other swag. The Training4Life event aims to bring young people together from 6 of our Clubs for a day of fun with a purpose.

Contribution to the Movement: Lynwood Creswell

Lynwood was awarded for her significant strides in advancing the mission and driving meaningful change. Lynwood was celebrated for her outstanding commitment, innovative efforts, and impactful actions that contributed to the growth and success of the movement over the last 25 years. Lynwood has played a crucial role in furthering the organization's goals and creating positive, lasting effects within the community.



2024 EVENTS

Crawfish Crawl Fundraiser

Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana their inaugural community raffle, Crawfish Crawl. The beloved community raffle known as the Duck Race, rebranded to a new and fresh look presented by Gulf Coast Bank and Giles Gives Back. Individuals were invited to participate in purchasing \$5 raffle tickets to support summer programming for all 9 Clubs. A beloved event allows the community to come together and support the common cuase to provide a safe place for kids and teens to go during the summer to close the academic gap in between school years, receieve a hot meal, and continue programming to become caring, responsible, and productive citizens.





Celebrity Waiter

Celebrating 29 years, Celebrity Waiter is the Vermilion event of the year, this year being the largest one yet. Year after year, the community show support for the youth. Individuals are invited to enjoy company as live music plays and look through the silent auction. Dinner is served by local celebrities as a live auction of exciting items and experiences are presented to continue to raise funds for programs and services for the local youth of Vermilion. We thank our presenting sponsors Ray Chevrolet, Industrial Oil Services, EnviroResources, and Beal 7 Hebert Law.

Country Concert

Members of the community gathered at Le Pavilion to celebrate youth in Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana Annual Country Concert Presented by Courtesy Automotive, Superior Energy, and Coteau Grove Porject. Sharing music and stories, Mark Chestnutt and Deana Carter provided a once in a life time experience pecial evening brings together country music, delicious food, and community spirit





Malcolm Mitchell Book Launch Event

Cox Communications partnered with Malcolm Mitchell, Superbowl Champion and Founder of the Share the Magic Foundation, to launch his newest children's book, A World Within Reach. This book highlights the positive impacts that internet accessibility can have on improving outcomes and closing the digital divide among the nation's youth. Cox Communications and Mitchell launched a national book tour with a stop in Lafayette on August 19, 2024, at the Jackie Club of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana. This event featured a day full of fun activities concluding with an exclusive book signing and donation.

Gail Benson Visit

Gail Benson, Owner of the New Orleans Saints and Pelicans governor, stopped by our Jackie Club to present the members gifts for Christmas as part of her December Month of Giving. Members received XBoxes, a PS5, iPads, and much more STEM products to add to their Cox Innovation Lab to continue to provide endless opportunities for our members to explore.



BGCA TEENS



Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana's Youth of the Year Leadership Academy Class of 2024 Graduates:

Ayden and Trevin from Jackie Club of BGCA
Nakayla and Zion from Opelousas Club of BGCA
Tylan, Asia, and Keion from New Iberia Club of BGCA



Youth of the Year is Boys & Girls Clubs premier recognition program. In preparation for the Youth of the Year Competition held in February, seven remarkable teens were selected to take part in our 6-month Youth of the Year Leadership Academy. This intensive 6 month program was designed to foster a new generation of leaders by developing them in the areas of public speaking, communication, networking, civic engagement, resume building and self-confidence. Their admittance into the Academy was based on their Club involvement, outstanding leadership, service to the community and academic excellence.

They each exemplify the Boys & Girls Club mission and are proof to the impact our Clubs make in transforming the lives of our members. Each participate received a mentor from their community that provided them guidance and support throughout this process. While in the program the teens learned the importance of civic engagement by developing, planning and implementing their own community service projects. At the end of the six month program, all participants graduated and were now prepared to compete in the Acadiana Youth of the Year Competition.

Empowering Youths' Voice at Local Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana Teen Townhall Takeover



In partnership with Boys & Girls Clubs of America Think, Learn, Create Change Program, Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana hosted their first annual Teen Town Hall Takeover Event, a groundbreaking initiative designed to encourage and empower youth to speak up and make meaningful changes in their communities. Bringing together over 80 teen Club members, elected government officials, and guest speakers, the event brought new and insightful perspectives on how to become a positive advocate in their teen community.

The Teen Town Hall Takeover Event aimed to provide a platform for our youth to voice their opinions, concerns, and ideas directly to the policymakers who shape their communities. Members welcomed Senator Gerald Boudreaux, Representative Brach Myers, Representative Jacob Landry, and Representative Troy Hebert who engaged in conversations of their interest in the government career path and what the next generation can do to continue to make positive changes. This unique opportunity allows teens to actively participate in the democratic process.







THANK YOU, DONORS



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Senator Kennedy Supreme Rice Taco Bell

\$25,000+

Acadia Police Jury Arthur Blank Foundation Bank of Commerce Broussard & David Caesars Entertainment

Citgo City of Natchitoches **EnviroResources Gulf Coast Bank** LHC Group

RoyOMartin Steve & Mona Cart Weyerhauser

\$**15,000**+

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\$5,000**+**

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Brian Ford Director of Development, Region 1
Lisa Leubner Director of Development, Region 2

Amy Hauser Grants Manager

Elise Morrison Area Director, Region 1 Nedra Green-Eggins Area Director, Region 2

Kaitlyn Collins Recruitment & Engagement Manager

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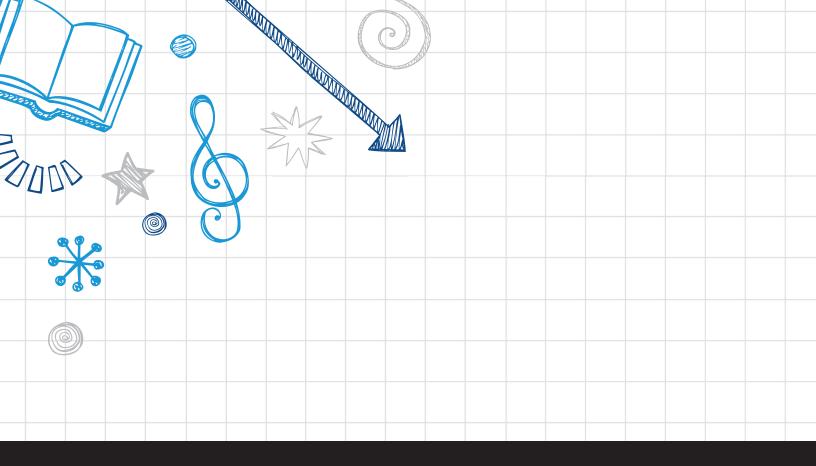
2024 FINANCIALS

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| ITEM | AMOUNT | PERCENTAGE |
|-------------------|--------------|------------|
| Campaign | 1,478,856.51 | 52.32% |
| Grants | 222,127.15 | 7.86% |
| Events | 461,094.89 | 16.31% |
| Miscellaneous | 96,076.20 | 3.40% |
| AmeriCorps | 193,643.67 | 6.85% |
| LA Alliance | 240,892.40 | 8.52% |
| Government Grants | 68,150.75 | 2.41% |
| United Way | 14,996.09 | 0.53% |
| Membership Dues | 50,949.97 | 1.80% |
| TOTAL | 2,826,787.63 | 100.00% |









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