This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at research@shsmo.org.

Introduction
Approximately 7 cubic feet

The records of the Boys and Girls Clubs of St. Charles County contain bylaws, correspondence, meeting minutes, and newspaper clippings regarding the organization's mission to foster productive citizens by providing youth with educational, recreational, and social activities. Materials of interest include the early Board of Directors meeting minutes (1955-1956), two issues of the Boys’ Club Journal (1956-1957), an in-house newsletter produced by club members, and newspaper clippings chronicling the early history of the organization. Included in this collection are photographs of club employees, members, and events. Notable photographs consist of Congressman Clarence Cannon speaking at the dedication of the first Boys and Girls Club building at 600 Clark Street. The collection is incomplete, as it does not include a complete set of the Board of Directors meeting minutes (1957-1988, 1994-2014), nor does it contain the records of the club’s executive directors. The collection is divided into eleven series: History; Board of Directors; Treasurer; Publicity; Programs; Buildings and Grounds; Photographs; Scrapbooks, Ledgers, and Oversize Newspaper; and Oversize Maps, Plans, and Architectural drawings. The materials in this collection date from 1954 to 2014.

The Boys and Girls Clubs of St. Charles County was founded on August 17, 1955, as the Boys’ Club INC. of St. Charles. The impetus for the club came from Joseph Hepp and the St. Charles Junior Chamber of Commerce. Concerned about the rising rates of juvenile delinquency in the area, the Junior Chamber of Commerce convened a public meeting at the St. Charles High School auditorium on March 24, 1954, to discuss creating a youth center to curb juvenile delinquency. Those in attendance voted to create a Youth Center Board of Directors to draft a proposal for the program. The board, led by Hepp, released their report to the public on October 4, 1954, calling for a youth center for boys and girls, featuring arts, dancing, movies, and reading—all funded by the city. Voters rejected the proposal during the April 5, 1955, election, citing the proposed hike in taxes.

Undeterred by the defeat, Hepp asked St. Charles Mayor Henry Vogt to convince the city council to hear his new proposal for youth, this time centered on the Boys’ Clubs of America. After hearing Hepp’s proposal on June 21, 1955, the city council formed the Boys’ Club Committee on June 21, 1955, which consisted of Hepp, Charles Hafer, Joseph Kuehler, Elder Holliday, Leonard Watson, and Forrest Watts. The committee spent the next several weeks drafting a proposal for the Boys’ Club of St. Charles, asking the mayor and the city council to support them in their plans to incorporate the club. The city council received approval for the city council on July 5, 1955. The committee subsequently secured a residence on 600 Clark Street as the site of the Boys’ Club first headquarters and held its first Board of Directors meeting on September 21, 1955.
After months of renovating the 600 Clark Street headquarters, the Boys’ Club held a dedication ceremony for the building on December 18, 1955, featuring Congressman Clarence Cannon, who cut the ceremonial ribbon. The first programs offered during the club’s early years were physical activities, including football, riflery, boxing, and swimming; educational events, consisting of painting, music, and woodworking; and social gatherings such as games and dancing. Despite the early success of the club, the 600 Clark Street building proved to be too small for its growing membership, which numbered 280 shortly after its opening. Without adequate space, the club would be unable to provide consistent services for the boys of St. Charles.

When Joseph Hepp left St. Charles in 1959, John B. Becker (1959-1960) succeeded Hepp as board president and created a committee to explore options for finding a new home for the Boys’ Club. Fundraising for a new building officially began with a “Kick Off dinner” on March 28, 1960. Under the leadership of Board President Dr. Russell J. Crider (1961-1963), the Boys’ Club secured 4 ½ acres of land adjacent to Blanchette Park, donated by the International Shoe Company. Construction of the building at 1300 Olive Street began shortly thereafter, with most of the work done voluntarily by construction workers. On December 16, 1962, the Board of Directors held a dedication ceremony for the new building, with Lindenwood president Dr. Franc Lewis McCluer as the principal speaker.

In the ensuing years, the Boys’ Club of St. Charles underwent several changes, including their acceptance of girls into the club in 1987. The club became officially known as the Boys and Girls Club of St. Charles in 1989. That same year, the Board of Directors began investigating options to open a new club in the western part of St. Charles County to serve the growing populations of St. Peters, O’Fallon, and Wentzville, Missouri. Ground for the new building broke in November 1990, although the financial recession of 1991-1992 and the flood of 1993 delayed construction. On March 15, 1994, the O’Fallon unit opened, offering programs comparable to St. Charles club. Now with two clubs in St. Charles County, the organization became the Boys and Girls Clubs of St. Charles County.

By 2010, deteriorating conditions at the 1300 Olive Street building led the Board of Directors making plans for a new St. Charles building in 2005. Construction of the new building lasted from 2011 to 2013, with the grand opening occurring on September 18, 2014.

**Donor Information**
The records were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Linda J. Sanchez on June 27, 2019 (Accession No. SA4429).

**Copyright and Restrictions**
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**Box List**

**Box 1**
History
BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS OF ST. CHARLES COUNTY RECORDS

Bylaws, Certificate of Incorporation, histories, meeting minutes, and a long-range plans, 1956-1989
Bylaws of the Ladies of the Boys’ Club of St. Charles, Missouri, 1958
Newspaper clippings regarding youth and youth center, 1954-1959
Newspaper clippings, 1954-2007 (7 folders)
Newspaper clippings and photographs, 1972-1980
Club history and newspaper clipping, 1990-1992
Resolutions, 2004-2005

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Board of Directors manual, 1980
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   Committees, 1991-1994
   Correspondence regarding board resignations, buildings and grounds
   improvements, and the State of Missouri’s Neighborhood Assistance
   Program, 1992-1993
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   Programs, 1992-1993
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   United Way of Greater St. Louis, 1991-1993
Andrew H. McCulloch
   Proposed constitution, lease agreements, newspaper clippings, and
   correspondence regarding tax exemptions and lease agreements,
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   Original bylaws, 1955
   Correspondence, lease agreements, and certificate of incorporation,
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   Biographical information, 1965, 2003
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   Contributions, expenditures, and revenue statements, 1999 (2 folders)
   Reports, 1992-1993

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   Newsletters, 2009 (4 Cd-RWs)
   Photographs of sporting events taken by Peggy Bradbury for news media, 1997

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Correspondence and nominations, 1997, 2000, 2011
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Press releases, 1986-1989

Box 3
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Team listings and notes, 1987, no date
Correspondence and public relations materials, 1987-1990
Team listings, notes, and correspondence, 1988-1989
Correspondence, donation listing, and income and expense report, 1990-1991
Merchandise sale, correspondence, photographs, and promotional materials, 1994-1995
Crystal Ball
Auction listings, invitations, itinerary and a biography of Boyle O. Rhodes, 1998
Correspondence, program books, and expense reports, 1999
Correspondence, auction listings, agendas, and a program book, 2000

Buildings and Grounds
Correspondence, newspaper clippings, and photographs, 1991-1994
Photographs of 1300 Olive Street and O’Fallon unit entrance, no date
Photographs of water damage at 1300 Olive Street building, no date
Photographs of 1300 Olive Street and O’Fallon unit construction, 1960-1962, 1990
Swimming pool, 1967-2003

Photographs
6th and Clark Street Boys Club dedication, 1955
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BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS OF ST. CHARLES COUNTY RECORDS

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Alumni week, Cardinals ballgame, Installation dinner (Jeanette Koechner), Marshall Faulk, Nikki Davis (Youth of the Year), and Kids Night Out, 2000
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Andrew McColloch, Steve Ehlmann, and Gary Steinhoff, January 2003 (1 CD)
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**Box 7**
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History of the Ladies of the Boys’ Club of St. Charles, Missouri,
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Meeting minutes, 1958-1966
Meeting attendance lists, 1958-1973
Newspaper clippings and photograph scrapbook, 1958-1962
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Photograph scrapbook of summer camp, swimming events, and football games,
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**Tray 2**
*St. Louis Globe-Democrat* article on the construction of the 1300 Olive Street building,
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**Tray 3**
St. Charles site, subdivision and title survey maps, 2006
Architectural drawings
Roll 1 Boys and Girls Club of St. Charles, Missouri
Location 1300 Olive Street, St. Charles, Missouri
Architect John B. Becker
Date 1960
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<td>Schultz Group, Inc.</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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