



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**  
OF THE MUSKEGON  
LAKESHORE

*Monday, June 1, 2020*

Yesterday, a peaceful protest was held in the City of Muskegon, beginning with a prayer service held in Hackley Park. The Muskegon community came together in a strong display of solidarity against racial inequality, in response to recent events, polarizing our Nation. George Floyd, Ahmed Aubrey, and Breonna Taylor along with the other victims should not have died and will not be forgotten. We know this week's headlines are a symptom of a larger problem—one that cuts across every aspect of society, including schools and other systems that serve young people and their families.

Boys & Girls Club of the Muskegon Lakeshore (BGCML) stands in solidarity with the black community, and with the fight against systemic racism, white supremacy, and the oppression of people of color in this nation. Locally, 74% of the youth served by BGCML identify as Black/African American. Our mission is to inspire and enable all youth, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. The accumulation of incidents recently, and in the past across the nation and here in Muskegon County leave an unerasable mark on young people, especially young people of color. To help reach our mission BGCML will not be silent in the face of these inequities. Sitting silent is turning our backs on racism, and as an organization, we believe that **BLACK LIVES MATTER.**