

# BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF METRO ATLANTA CONTINUES TO CHANGE AMERICA'S FUTURE WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM SIKICH



With a mission to save and change the lives of children, Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta has a lot on their plate. Worrying about communication delays, sharing information and IT issues are the last items on their to-do list. Sikich was able to help find a solution for each one of these IT headaches.

## CHALLENGE

With 28 Clubs and 400 employees around the Metro Atlanta area, they were lacking the ability to easily share critical information to communicate and collaborate.

## SOLUTION

Microsoft Office 365 delivers easy and secure access to email, web conferencing, documents and calendars.

## RESULTS

Utilizing Office 365 has improved communication, consolidated and centralized company information, and increased productivity. Information is now accessed in seconds instead of several minutes. Less time is spent on finding information which allows more time to focus on the club's mission.

Gold  
**Microsoft**  
Partner



## PROVIDING HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

For more than 75 years, Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta has provided at-risk metro area youth with the support needed to reach their full potential. With engaging programs and supportive staff, the organization offers kids and teens a safe place to learn and grow, and helps them succeed in school, live healthy and become leaders.

The mission here is significant and the employees do not have extra time to spend on finding information and every day technology issues. Chief Administrative Officer, Ken Collins, was tired of wasting time trying to access important financial documents while working from a remote location. "If I was at a conference in another part of the country, I would have to scramble to get to a computer, do a remote desktop and hope the sheet is updated. If not, I had to have a staff person e-mail it to me."

The Club needed help streamlining their communication and access methods and that's where Sikich was able to jump in and help.

## SIKICH HELPS MAKE THE SOLUTION A REALITY

Office 365 seemed like a great concept to Collins but he didn't know if it would fit in the parameters of their budget. At the same time, the issue of trying to decide how to respond to the end of life for the Windows 2003 arose. Shortly after, he found out Microsoft was offering Office 365 to nonprofit organizations for free!

Office 365 was the solution to all of their technology problems. "Not only is it more economical, it is a better solution. Collaborating across the organization using many different devices and not tying people to desktop computers is important," states Collins. Now, Collins is able to view important data while out of the office in a matter of seconds instead of taking up to 20 minutes.

## OFFICE 365 BREATHES LIFE INTO IMPORTANT INITIATIVES

Collins dreamed of using an intranet as a platform for displaying information and giving the ability to share a live newsletter of what is going on with their initiatives. With 28 Clubs and 400 employees - this was an important piece to solving their technology needs and improving how they serve the children in the community. Now SharePoint Online allows Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta to do just that. The organization also had a critical need to have 'one source of truth' for all documentation and policies. Office 365 gives them access to a centralized location for all files - and even more importantly they all see the same version!



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*"(Sikich) are pros at this. They helped to avert problems in the conversion process. They have been through many conversions and knew what to expect and anticipate. In terms of accomplishment, it was very clear to me they have done this a lot. I can't say enough good things about how they were on top of the integration process. They are very good at what they do."*

Ken Collins

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE  
OFFICER, BOYS & GIRLS  
CLUBS OF METRO  
ATLANTA**

They are still in the early stages of learning and building their custom site but the staff is excited about the changes and all the capabilities Office 365 brings to their organization. Collins noted the staff's excitement, "They lit up like Christmas trees when they discovered what they could do - especially from their smartphones."

### **IT COMES DOWN TO HELPING THE KIDS**

"The possibilities to enhance processes and communications are endless," stated Collins. In the future the Club will be able to incorporate kid participation in ways they never could before. They now have the capability to build a landing page or collaborate with kids for other Clubs on events that occur organization wide. Not only is Office 365 a solution in the Clubs technology tool kit, it's a tool to teach kids skill sets for a successful future.

### **BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF METRO ATLANTA RECOMMENDS SIKICH**

Why did an organization with such an important mission chose to partner with Sikich, Inc.? Collins shared, "One indicator to me that Sikich was "the one" on a short list of companies we considered, was that they were running their own business on Office 365. No other companies were doing that."

Collins went on to say, "Sikich went above and beyond expectations. The team quickly understood our vision and where we wanted to take things. They supported us. They have the rare combination of being very technically capable, very personable and could articulate well to support those that don't have that level of knowledge."

### **ABOUT SIKICH**

Sikich LLP, a leading professional services firm specializing in accounting, technology, investment banking\* and advisory services\*\*, has more than 800 employees throughout the country. Founded in 1982, Sikich now ranks as one of the country's Top 30 Certified Public Accounting firms and is among the top 10 of all enterprise resource planning solution partners in the country.

