

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY

A Proposal Requesting Partnership from



THE SUNRISE CITY
FORT PIERCE
Florida

To support the *Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Lucie County*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For over 22 years, Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Lucie County has been in the forefront of youth development, working with young people from disadvantaged economic, social and family circumstances. The Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Lucie County has actively sought to enrich the lives of girls and boys whom other youth agencies have had difficulty in reaching. We are dedicated to ensuring that our community's disadvantaged youngsters have greater access to quality programs and services that will enhance their lives and shape their futures. The Club serves young people ages 5-18 from economically disadvantaged, social and family circumstances. Our mission is straightforward: To enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Lucie County believes every child deserves a great future. Unfortunately, today's youth face tremendous obstacles. Consider that about 1.7 million more youth live in low-income families now than during the Great Recession. In St. Lucie County, that equates to 26.6% of all youth. As multiple studies have shown, children from poverty are more likely to struggle academically and have behavioral issues. The Boys & Girls Clubs helps mitigate these issues by providing youth an outcome driven Club experience and a safe place to learn grow and play, keeping them off the streets.

With 17 locations throughout the county including six Clubhouses, four in Fort Pierce and two in Port St. Lucie, and eleven school-based Clubs, we are able to serve more than 6000 youth annually with our afterschool, summer and outreach programming. Our six Clubhouses are strategically located in economically challenged neighborhoods, allowing many of our members to safely walk to the Club in their community.

A partnership with the City of Fort Pierce will enable us to have an even deeper impact on our community's youth by serving youth from Fort Pierce at the Percy Peak Gymnasium and allowing us to implement a myriad of programs to enhance academic success, civic engagement and healthy lifestyles. Our programs at the Gymnasium would incorporate local Fort Pierce Community Partners and the facility would serve as a beacon for other non-profits to host enhancement opportunities. This Partnership would also allow our youth the opportunity to meet key stakeholders in the Fort Pierce community that will volunteer their time and share their own personal success stories with youth who need them most.

ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

The Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Lucie County is part of a nationwide affiliation of local, autonomous organizations and Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) working to help youth of all backgrounds develop the qualities needed to become responsible citizens and leaders. It offers daily access to a broad range of programs in five core program areas (Character and Leadership Development; Education and Career Development; Health and Life Skills; The Arts; and Sports, Fitness and Recreation) and several specialized initiatives. All programs are designed to drive positive outcomes for youth and reinforce necessary life skills.

Today, more than 6000 youth who need us most are taking advantage of the programs, activities and services provided by the Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Lucie County at our 17 Club locations. Our vision is to provide a world-class Club Experience that assures success is within reach of every young person who walks through 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.

To make sure that all of our members have great futures, the Boys & Girls Club Movement has adopted the Formula for Impact, a research-based theory of change that describes how individual Clubs and the Movement as a whole can increase our impact – exponentially – on the young people of America.

Our Formula begins with the young people in Clubs – especially those who need us most. It calls for us to consistently provide the most powerful Club Experience possible – by implementing the Five Key Elements for Positive Youth Development, offering high-yield activities and providing targeted programs – all of which help youth achieve priority outcomes. Then, because we also know that attending the Club more frequently and over a greater length of time makes young people more likely to achieve positive outcomes, Clubs must pursue strategies to increase attendance, program participation and member retention.



ADDRESSING THE NEED

Now more than ever, community partners play a critical role in shaping the lives of America's young people. This is where Boys & Girls Clubs are uniquely positioned to make a significant difference. We have access to the youth who need us most, and a program that will help youth develop positive outcomes and achieve great futures. The Club operates on a weekly basis afterschool until 7:00pm during the school year and in summer provides services from 7:30am until 6:00pm.

One of the most effective ways to protect young people from risk exposure is to strengthen their bonds with positive, pro-social family members, adults outside the family (including teachers, coaches, youth leaders) and friends. Young people with strong, supportive relationships are invested in or committed to achieving the goals held by those to whom they are bonded. They are less likely to do things that threaten that bond - such as drug use, violence, or committing crimes. Studies of children who avoid problem behavior despite living in high risk situations show that strong bonds with an adult – whether parent or other family member, teacher, coach, community member, or other significant adult – can decrease the likelihood of delinquent behavior.

Additionally when families, schools and communities have clearly stated policies and expectations for young people's behavior, children are less likely to become involved in crime and delinquency. Healthy beliefs and clear standards, communicated consistently by the significant individuals and social groups to whom the child is bonded, build a web of protection for young people exposed to risk.

PRGRAM DETAILS

Academic Success

One of our many programs that members participate in daily, Project Learn and Power Hour, helps improve academic performance and addresses specific learning needs. Project Learn implements High-Yield Learning Activities (HYLA) including leisure reading, writing activities, discussions with knowledgeable adults, helping others, homework help and tutoring and games like Scrabble that develop young people's cognitive skills; these activities are completed daily on an hourly basis and depending on the Club schedule, a minimum of fifteen (15) hours of HYLA's are completed each week. Project Learn/Power Hour is a comprehensive program strategy based on the research by Dr. Reginald Clark showing that students do much better in school when they spend their non-school hours engaged in fun, but academically beneficial activities. Extensively field-tested and formally evaluated by Columbia University, Project Learn has been proven to boost academic performance by Club members.

New academic initiatives include science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programing. Our STEM program is an activity-based program for youth that helps them make connections between scientific principles and real-world applications exploring science concepts like engineering design, chemistry, energy/electricity and aeronautics. The Club has also launched a FIRST Lego League. This offers an additional challenge for youth eager to learn and launch into the world of Robotics. These programs are offered two hours each week. The Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Lucie County recently applied for a grant to make the Gym a 21st Century Learning Center to offer free educational and enrichment enhancements to academic programming.

Teens also participate in career and mentoring programs such as CareerLaunch and STAR. CareerLaunch introduces young people to the "working world." The program provides a range of services to help Club

members develop skills essential for workforce success. Additionally, it allows them the opportunity to explore various careers based on their interests and talents, and determine the corresponding educational path they would need to pursue. Diplomas to Degrees (d2D), is a college readiness, access and success program. d2D provides a range of services to help guide Club members through high school and plan for post-secondary education and career success.

STAR - Scholars and Workforce Readiness – is a working partnership program with the Florida Prepaid College Foundation, Leaders from St. Lucie Public Schools, the Education Foundation, Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Lucie County and the business community. STAR is a mentoring program designed to help struggling youth with motivation, problem-solving, time management, critical thinking and oral communication skills to improve their employment opportunities. A recent study conducted by the Economic Development Council identified these skill sets as ones local employers look for in their new hires. Each student will learn exactly what it takes to excel in their chosen field. They will gain valuable on-the-job training, interact with business owners and staff, and position themselves for a bright future

Healthy Lifestyles

In an effort to ensure that members achieve great futures, Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Lucie County implements several programs to ensure members increase their physical activity, make smart food choices and enhance their ability to get along with other youth and adults. These programs developed by Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) have proven to be effective based on results based research. These programs include Triple Play, Healthy Habits, and SMART Moves. Triple Play is a multi-faceted program that focuses on the mind, body and soul. BGCA developed Triple Play in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. Through Triple Play, youth learn about good nutrition and how to make smart meal and snack choices. Members receive coaching in sports leagues and fun activities, developing their coordination and leadership skills. Organized social recreation activities strengthen character, increase confidence and enhance the ability to relate well to others.

The progression of Triple Play activities build on knowledge over time but can also stand alone as a one-time activity. The program design is dynamic, interactive and encourages open discussions. It also features engaging, hands-on activities to maintain excitement and interest. Healthy Habits promotes health and well-being by incorporating healthy living and active learning into every part of the Club Experience. Another unique effort that fosters healthy lifestyles is our PGA Golf program and First Tee Program where we introduce Club members ages 7-18 to the game of golf.

Club members also participate weekly in SMART (Skills Mastery and Resistance Training) programming to reinforce and increase their knowledge and resistance skills to gang involvement, substance abuse, HIV/Aids, smoking and premature sexual activity. Our SMART program has been scientifically evaluated with documented results and is recognized as a Best Practice in the state of Florida as well as in our nation. This program addresses health and wellness issue experienced by children and adolescents, and also addresses the high rate of substance abuse among middle school and high school students in SLC.

Good Character & Citizenship

Through service activities, such as Million Members Million Hours of Service and Boys & Girls Torch Club and Keystone Club - both peer leadership groups - members identify Club and community needs, develop programs and activities and actively participate in their community. These activities also provide experience

in the democratic process. Above all, they give young people a chance to contribute something of value to others. Examples of Torch Club and Keystone Club service activities include the following:

- Peer mentoring programs
- Adopt-a-grandparent programs
- Food and clothing drives
- Community clean-ups and beautification projects
- Environmental awareness campaigns

OUR SUCCESS

The following was achieved this past year alone:

- 99% of Club members are passing literacy
- 98% of Club members are passing math
- 78% of our teen members plan to attend a 4yr. college or better.
- 100% of Club members abstained from smoking
- 91% of surveyed teens reported abstained from drinking alcohol within 30 days of the survey
- Last year 6,115 hours of community service was completed by Club members with a total economic value of \$135,019.

It is proven that youth who engage in our programing, are more likely to achieve positive outcomes, such as avoiding risky behaviors, progressing to the next grade on time and exercising regularly.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Zora Neale Hurston Branch Library – Collaborate on Project Learn to include STEAM programs, summer reading initiative and other enrichment programs. Boys & Girls Clubs also provides the library with the summer feeding program.

Indian River State College Blackburn Center – Partnership will include Club teens using college classrooms for delivery of Club programs and college exploration.

Career Source Research Coast – Career preparation partnership and job placement

City of Fort Pierce Police Department – We will enhance a current collaborative where law enforcement works with Club members to develop positive relationships and deliver educational components such as resistance skills from SMART Moves and participate in recreational activities.

Local Sports Leagues – afterhours sports leagues and teen/adult sports opportunities

St. Lucie County Schools – Partnership to include educational enhancements and recruit Club membership. In addition marketing and placement of teens in CTE Programing.

Economic Development Council – Provide Career mentors and job placement with local employers

Education Foundation St. Lucie - Partnership on STAR mentoring program and scholarship opportunities.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS NEEDS (For further detailed discussion)

- Facility
- Utilities & Maintenance
- Grant Funds for Staffing & Programs
- Volunteers
- Refer a child to our Club

PUBLICITY PLAN

Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Lucie County will be happy to acknowledge the contributions of the City of Fort Pierce for their support of Boys & Girls Clubs in appropriate communications. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Press Release on Gym partnership, outcomes and special events
- Organization Name/Logo recognition in E-newsletter
- Organization Name/Logo, Company Statement, and Company Link on Website
- Organization Logo displayed on Boys & Girls Clubs Annual Report

With the support of the City of Fort Pierce, we can ensure that our community's youth go on to become productive, caring, responsible citizens. Here at Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Lucie County, we firmly believe that GREAT FUTURES START HERE.