John D. Jackie Gaughan Clubhouse

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POVERTY

“The longer children spend in poverty, the less their chances for bettering themselves as they grow up” (Katel, 2011).

“Alleviating urban poverty depends significantly on economic growth and the nation’s ability to provide more, and better-paying, jobs” (Lemons, 2015).

“Rising poverty should be a concern even among those who don’t see a moral obligation to aid the poor” (Billitteri, 2007).

Poverty also results in parent-child relationship development issues. Because many parents are busy working long shifts to provide for the family, increasing number of children are left alone without supervision to entertain themselves. Often times, children will end up in the streets and are vulnerable to danger.

“Boys and Girls Club of Southern Nevada enables all young people, especially those who need us the most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.”

Learning Outcomes:
• Raise social awareness of urban youth poverty
• Ways to communicate and interact with young children
• Better understanding of different groups of the next generation
• Ways to help the nearby community

Throughout this fall semester, I volunteered at John D. Jackie Gaughan Clubhouse to help out the staffs supervise and tutor the children participating in the program. It was an eye opening experience and reminded me how blind I was to think that those who are in need are half away around the globe in the third world countries. People who require our help the most are right around us.

The Boys and Girls Club is a nonprofit organization for youth that works to aid the families in the community by providing programs to keep the children away from the streets. The organization and the staffs desire to show hope for a better future and teach positive behaviors to the children.

HOW?
• Help people find jobs with reasonable wages and stable work schedules
• Encourage education
• Volunteer regularly

Personal Learnings
Having work experience with young children in the past, volunteering at the Boys and Girls Club reminded me how much I loved bonding with children and of the things I learned through helping them as well as reflecting on myself.