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Boys & Girls Club of Southern Nevada: John D. "Jackie" Gaughan Clubhouse

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BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

OF SOUTHERN NEVADA

JOHN D. "JACKIE" GAUGHAN CLUBHOUSE

ALEX AHIA COE 202-1008

MISSION STATEMENT

"To enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens."

HISTORY AND PURPOSE

Began in 1865 to give boys a safe place in the community especially boys without fathers from the civil war. The Boys and Girls Club has grown to be over 4000 locations today.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PARADIGM

The community service paradigm that the Boys and Girls Club best fits is the social change paradigm. The social change paradigm "transforms" individuals by building relationships and continually works at the cause of the social issue. The organization exemplifies change for juvenile delinquency and education through positive mentorship. The program directly works with the children to "transform" them into respectable adults with resources they would otherwise not be privy to.

SOCIAL ISSUE ADDRESSED

The primary social issue addressed at the club is juvenile delinquency. According to Abigail Fagan et al., "In the U.S., 22% to 35% of high school students report current use of tobacco, alcohol, and marijuana and lifetime drug use is even higher (180)." In the article, Fagan et al. goes on to mention that adolescent criminal activity can be attributed to the child's lack of familial support. Ryan Meldrum et al. supports this idea with their article that states, "... main finding is that parental low self-control is significantly associated with juvenile delinquency (1637)." The article analyzes the concept of parental self-control, which is the level of a parent's self discipline and standards valued by society (Meldrum et al. 1624). Thus, correlating that a parent's low self-control positively correlates with a child's rate of juvenile delinquency.



IDEAL STATE

When asking Jaquelyn Atha, Clubhouse Director, of what the "ideal state" would be of the community if juvenile delinquency were to be solved, she responds simply by saying, "Juvenile crime and delinquency would be non-existent and parents would be present in all aspects of their childrens' lives." Studies show that a high rate of parental involvement can decrease the likelihood of delinquency in mid-adolescents and criminal activity in early adulthood (Walters 783).

EXPECTATIONS

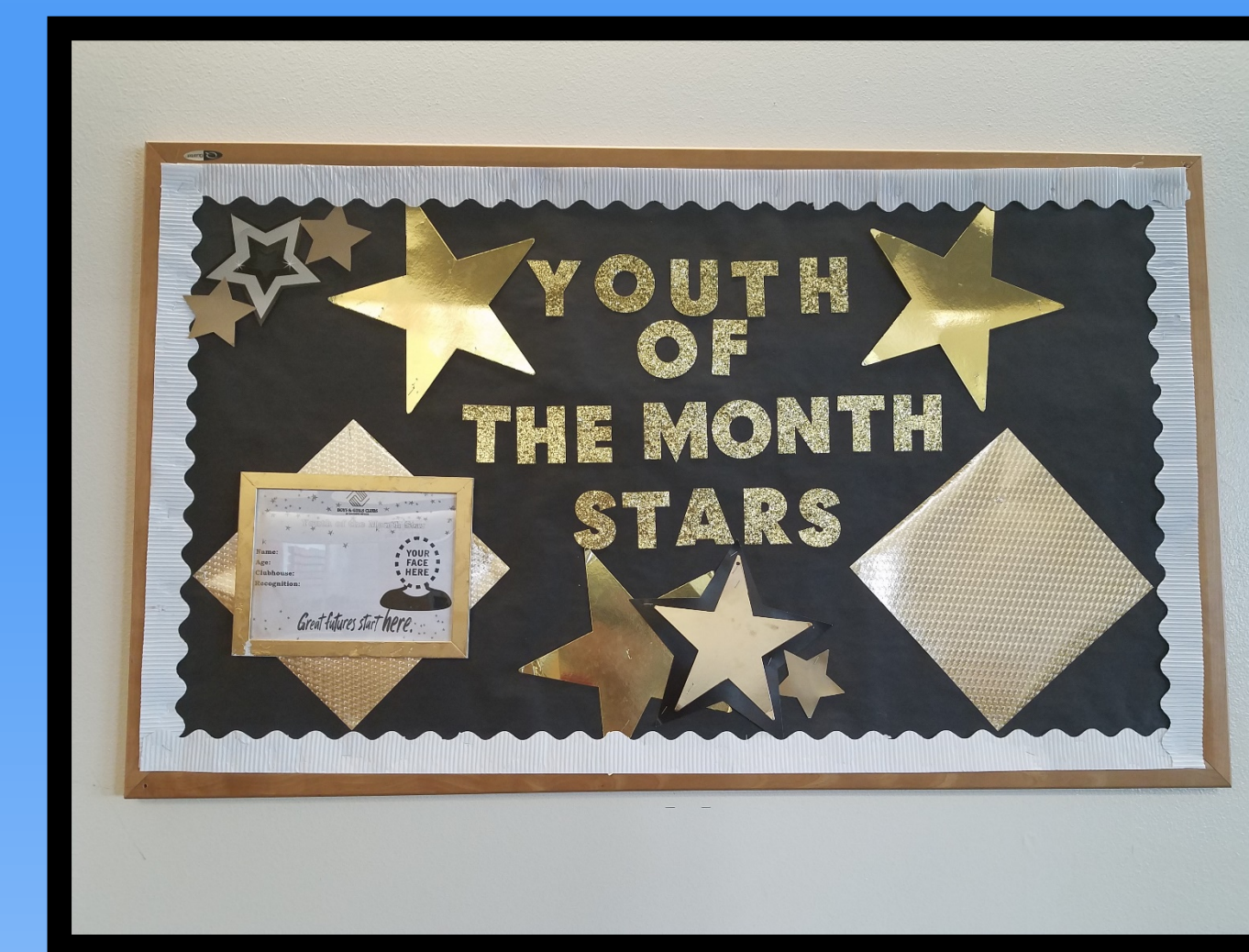
Prior to volunteering at the Boys and Girls Club, I had little information about the organization. I expected it to be like any other after school program where children played games and did homework. I am not the best with children and expected to be overwhelmed by their high levels of energy.

DIFFERENCES I MADE FOR THE SITE

While volunteering, my duties included welcoming the children, preparing snacks, cleaning, but most importantly tutoring during "Power Hour." I believe that assisting the children with their homework was essential because of the lack of onsite tutors. Many of the children struggled with their assignments and expressed lack of assistance at home. I spent much of my attention on one individual that struggled with dyslexia. With great patience, I helped him finish all of his week's homework by the end of the hour.

LEARNINGS

From this service, I have learned much about the community. Helping such a diverse crowd of children has taught me that there is a significant issue with the local youth. I feel so frustrated with the parents because I know that it is a problem of nurture. The children are so impressionable and they just need better influences. The Boys and Girls Club does a great job at filling the parental void in the childrens' lives and creates a better foundation for their futures.



References

- Fagan, Abigail A., et al. "A Multi-Level Analysis of the Impact of Neighborhood Structural and Social Factors on Adolescent Substance Use." *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, vol. 153, 2015, p. 180.
- Meldrum, Ryan C., et al. "Parental Low Self-Control, Family Environments, and Juvenile Delinquency." *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, vol. 60, no. 14, 2016, pp. 1623-1644.
- Walters, Glenn D. "Delinquency, Parental Involvement, Early Adult Criminality, and Sex: Evidence of Moderated Mediation." *Journal of Adolescence*, vol. 36, no. 4, 2013, pp. 777-785.