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Boys and Girls Club

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History and Purpose

The mission of the Boys and Girls Club is to enable young adults to reach their full potential. They do this by providing them with the tools necessary to become successful citizen, classmates, and leaders. The facility recognizes that most of their members come from low-income families and that is why they support the young adults with food and a social emotional connection; as these things are vital when growing up. The Boys and Girls Club's vision is that young adults all around America who roamed the streets with no positive guidance would get off the streets and get on the right path for graduating high school and be on their way to becoming positive member of society.



Community Service Paradigm

In "the irony of service" by Keith Morton, he defines a project as "development of partnerships of organizations that collectively have access to the resources necessary to make something happen" (Morton, 1995). I agree with Morton and believe that The Boys and Girls Club best fits a project paradigm because it hosts scheduled event that happen in order to create opportunity for young adults.

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Social Issue

The main social issues the Boys and Girls Club aims to attacks is getting young adults off the streets. It achieves this within its program by minimizing behavior problems, teaching student self-care and the importance of a united community



- "Participants demonstrated significant increases in their self-perceptions and bonding to school, positive social behaviors, school grades and levels of academic achievement, and significant reductions in problem behaviors" (Durlak, 2010).
- "Surveys administered showed that a large percentage of students exhibited behavioral change following the completion of each module: 42% for oral hygiene, 88% for hand washing, 75% for physical activity, 88% for personal hygiene and 50% for nutrition/food safety" (Baker, 2012).
- "The purpose of the intervention was to increase tenants' physical activity together with opportunities for social interaction and support to, in turn, improve physical and mental wellbeing, and ultimately help individuals re-engage in their community" (Sofija, 2018).

References

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- Morton, Keith. "The Irony of Service: Charity, Project, and Social Change in Service Learning." *Michigan Journal of Community Service Learning* 2. 1995.
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Service Learning Experience & Making a Difference

I have served my community during my service because, I have taught the children in the program lessons that can not only benefit themselves but their community as well. By advising and teaching participants basic math, reading, and writing skills. I have equipped generations to come with knowledge that may have otherwise not been available to them. The children at this site will not only benefit but the community will as well because, it is setting up for a well-educated and respectable societies and generations to come.



The children made my experience memorable, as they were very upbeat, innocent, and curious about life and about my mine. Seeing the children's optimism and curiosity made me realize, how much adulthood has changed our outlook on life, how so easily we have forgotten to smile or even having fun in our everyday, busy, lives. Therefore, I believe this experience has really made a difference in my life and in the children's lives as well, as it has allowed us to connect on such a personal level.