John D. Jackie Gaughan Boys and Girls Club

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History and Purpose

- They have been around since 1865
- They began as a safe place for boys who had lost their fathers to go after the Civil War
- From there the organization grew and they now have more than 4000 clubhouses worldwide
- The purpose is to provide a safe environment for young people to learn and to grow

Community Service Paradigm

- The community service paradigm that the Boys and Girls Club best fits is social change
- It is a learning environment for the children to grow
- The children need positive role models, so they can have someone that supports and influences them in a healthy way

Social Issue

- The social issue they are addressing is at risk youth and juvenile delinquency
- This social issue comes from the lack of parental support and adult mentors in kids’ lives
- They address this issue by providing programs and activities geared towards the positive development of at risk youth
- It can be a difficult adjustment for the children to transition from one family to another
- They may miss the parent they are not with or their parent could have died
- They could be going back and forth between households every week, which is an additional issue

Current and Ideal State

- Community that is free of at risk youth
- Juvenile crime and delinquency would be non-existent, and parents would be present in all aspects of their children’s lives
- The ideal service program to achieve this ideal state would be a youth development program run by licensed professionals who could provide support both financially and mentally
- The Boys and Girls Club strives to come as close as they can to providing this service with the services they do provide
- No blended families or single parent homes so there are not as many crimes committed by children

Difference Making

- I volunteered 3 hours per month
- I was a positive role model for children that do not have the best mental health

Personal Learning

- Small changes can have a big impact
- Not everyone is as fortunate as I am
- Working with children takes a lot of discipline

References