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## The Boys and Girls Club of Southern Nevada

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# The Boys and Girls Club of Southern Nevada (Lied Memorial)

By Jackeline Villasenor

## Mission Statement

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

## History

- The organization began in 1860 in Hartford, Connecticut when three women believed that boys that were on the streets deserved better. They wanted to focus on giving the lost boys skills and goals.



## Community Service Paradigm

- The category of community service paradigm for the BGCA is social change. With my time here I can see the ever lasting impacts that the club makes. This organizations goal is to give the youth the skills need to strive throughout life. Each and every program put into place is to give the members skills and an abundance of resources to excel as citizens.

## Social Issue

- The social issue that the Boys and Girls Club is addressing is that there are youth across our community that aren't getting the attention necessary or skills needed to have all the opportunities for success (Griffin/Reed, 2015).
- In our state, we are in dire need for change to occur we are at a point of no return. We rank last in the field of education and have one of the highest dropout rates in the country . The club is giving the youth a safe haven where they can ask for help in any aspect of their lives.
- There is a reason why they make programs that give youth a wide variety of skills so that they can utilize them within their lives and education. More often than not the youth is sent out in the real world ready due to the lack of attention in school or home life (Villalobos, 2017). This social issue is something that Nevada has been battling with for years in 2008 we were ranked 51 in education (Tyler/Owens, 2012).



## Ideal State

- An ideal state according to my club director Tamarco Glasper would be where the member would be given more attention in school in their home lives. Time and time again you can see members crying out in forms of tantrums or rebelling due to missing this important aspect in their life. A study conducted about the youth found that forms of tantrums and rebellion can be connected to an attempt to get attention (Giffin/Reed, 2015).

### References

- Tyler, Tiffany G, and Owens, Sandra D. "High School Graduation and Dropout Rates in Nevada." High School Graduation and Dropout Rates in Nevada, 2012.
- Griffith, Aisha N., and Reed W. Larson. "Why Trust Matters: How Confidence in Leaders Transforms What Adolescents Gain From Youth Programs." *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, vol. 26, no. 4, Dec. 2015, pp. 790–804.
- Villalobos, Ricardo, Cecilia Maldonado, LeAnn G. Putney, Tiffany G. Tyler, and Stefani R. Relles. Focus On Success: An Explanatory Embedded Multiple-Case Study On How Youth Successfully Navigate Workforce Development Programs In Southern Nevada (2017).

## Semester Reflection

- The highlight of my semester was this project I was able to connect to it on a level that has open my eyes. My time at the BGCA was more than I could've expected. I learned about why each activity is put into place and how it impacts the members. My experience was 10/10 I have been volunteering with this organization for years and it still shocks me to learn more about how much they really do for the community and the youth.



## Impact I've made

- During my time here I was in a variety of areas but my favorite and the one that I felt I had the biggest impact in was the "tutoring center." This was an area were I got to help members in a variety of subjects. Just being able to help a member understand something that was giving them so much frustration enlightens my day. I believe no mater how small or big the gesture it has an impact whether one realizes it or not.

## Personal Learning

- Personally this experience has opened the door to something I truly enjoy, giving back. If I can in any shape or form can help my community its something that I will do in a heart beat. The feeling of giving back is indescribable.