



Why the Boys & Girls Club?

Boys & Girls Clubs of America has been changing young lives since 1860 when the first Club was organized. Several independent studies confirm what Club professionals and alumni have known all along. Clubs work.

Results of six independent studies dramatically demonstrate that the Club experience gives children advantages that last a lifetime. An independent survey of alumni, conducted by Louis Harris & Associates, verifies that Boys & Girls Clubs widely benefit young people through effective programs that foster self-confidence, a sense of belonging and hope for the future. Additionally, communities in need gain much from the presence of Clubs. Alumni from economically and socially disadvantaged backgrounds strongly emphasize the positive impact of Clubs.

Project L E A R N

By partnering with schools and establishing Clubs in non-traditional settings, Boys & Girls Club is offering positive choices and brighter futures to children who are often left behind or ignored. Youth participating in Project Learn also had 87% fewer absences and measured 81% higher in homework completion.

In a study sponsored by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, Columbia University's Dr. Steven Schinke, a leading expert in social work, examined Boys & Girls Clubs in five U.S. cities. The study involved 150 girls and boys who participated in Project Learn, a new Boys & Girls Clubs of America educational enhancement program. Project Learn uses homework help, tutoring, high-yield learning/leisure activities, goal-setting and parental/ school support to improve academic performance among youth from disadvantaged circumstances.

The study compared young people in Clubs implementing Project Learn to those in generic after-school programs. The findings were impressive. Compared to youth in generic programs, Project Learn youth had substantially higher grade point averages:

Spelling 20% Higher GPA
History 20% Higher GPA
Math 16% Higher GPA
Science 14% Higher GPA

Youth Gang PREVENTION and Early INTERVENTION

"Boys & Girls Clubs of America stands out as an exemplar of a national network of youth-serving organizations with the capacity and commitment to implement a nationwide offensive to counteract the problem of youth gangs in America. Given the scope of the gang problem nationally, and the need to reach youth before they become involved in youth gangs, more efforts should be made to publicize, market and expand these efforts within Boys & Girls Clubs nationwide."

"Gangs are essentially young men and women looking for friendship, companionship and a sense of belonging. All these things they can get right here in a Boys & Girls Club. It's not about the building and the brick and the mortar. This place builds character." *Denzel Washington, B&GCA National Spokesman and Club Alumnus.*

Involving Parents

Boys & Girls Clubs have positive reputations in their communities as safe places where young people participated in constructive activities. Parents did not feel threatened and intimidated by the Boys & Girls Clubs as they did by many of the other community organizations or agencies

such as the housing authority, social welfare, the juvenile justice system, or even the schools. Youths' existing Club involvement provided an ideal opportunity to reach out to parents in a positive, respectful way that laid the foundation for developing a trusting relationship over time.

CLUB Impact

- a resource for underserved communities
- a safe and supervised place for young people
- an inclusive place for sports and recreation
- a place for low-cost services
- a place for school-age child care
- a support or resource for school
- a place for informal adult interaction
- on Communities and Schools

All the Boys & Girls Clubs exert positive influences not only on youth, but on parents, residents, school personnel, and other community stakeholders as well.