



YOUTH OJP MENTORING PROGRAM



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE NORTH VALLEY
Serving Butte & Glenn Counties

“Every youth is one caring adult away from being a success story” – Josh Shipp

Background

The National Youth Mentoring Initiative is a key grant program administered at the Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). A three-year, DOJ-contracted study found that BGCA's group mentoring approach with **32,900 youth** resulted in a positive effect on youth's social skills, as well as having the potential to reduce taxpayer cost for at-risk youth. The study shows that preventing youth at-risk from pursuing delinquent behavior over the three year period provided an average taxpayer savings/Club of **\$374,622** and an average amount per youth of **\$4,921** for a total maximum potential savings of **\$110,891,000.***

More than one in three young people report that they never had an adult mentor.

Boys & Girls Clubs are uniquely positioned to provide significant youth mentorship experiences while driving evidence-based results. Clubs utilize a combination of group and one-on-one mentorship approaches to foster the development of peer-to-peer relationships, strengthen the development of critical social skills, augment their ties with positive adult influencers and establish close connections to their communities.

Youth Mentoring is Effective

According to the Boys & Girls Clubs of America's National Youth Outcomes Initiatives Report: "Teens who regularly attend Clubs are more likely than their peers to volunteer in their communities at least once a month, with 66% of 12th graders volunteering once a month compared to 29% nationally."

Mentoring helps young people, especially youth at-risk, succeed in school, work, and life. Youth at-risk placed with a mentor are more likely (51%) to hold a leadership position in a club, sports team, school council, etc. than those without mentors (22%). Club member's ages 12 to 17 from low-income families outperform their peers academically, with 74% reporting getting A's and B's in school, compared to 67% nationally.



“My favorite part about the mentoring program is learning how to influence others and help other people learn to make the right choices. My mentor cares and ask me about how my actions affect others when I don't make good choices.” – Dylan, 15

Butte County Probation Department's 2017 program audit identified several areas of strength in our Clubs; no youth is excluded from participation even when behavioral issues exist, youth can earn their way back into good standing, staff utilize surveys to receive pertinent feedback and adjust programming accordingly, staff have good communication as evidenced by the consistency throughout the levels of staff within the organization. During their observations and interviews, it was clear that the staff are passionate about their work with the youth, committed to providing quality service, and demonstrated talent when working with youth.

Proven Success Story

The BGCNV, Youth OJP Mentoring Program provides opportunities and Club programs to the highest risk youth in our communities. We have 15 trained targeted mentors supporting local youth through our Clubs using effective programming and evidence based practices.

The results are that participating youth are seeing improved success in school and have become more engaged in Club programs, showing a marked change in being able to self-regulate negative behaviors as well as develop positive coping behaviors.

“The most important thing I've learned from my mentor is that my actions impact others and I need to work on self-confidence and self-control. I am more responsible and I have learned how to handle things and solve my problems. Now I help others.” – Taron, 17

*U.S. Department of Justice Programs. (2015). A comprehensive evaluation of group mentoring at the BGCA. 2010-JU-FX-0119.

To Learn More and Become a Sponsor contact Rashell Brobst, Chief Executive Officer rbrobst@bgcnv.org