

Liaison Report for
Boys and Girls Club
Of Story County

1. Need for the program.

Little has changed in the last year regarding the need for this organization. If nothing else, the need is growing due to an increase in demand from kids who need a place to be but are unable to be accommodated by the current space restrictions. For the past few years the agency has had more membership requests than they could fill so the organization is planning an expansion. The Boys and Girls club helps kids in need from ages 7 to 18. This organization fulfills Story County's goals of ensuring the safety, health and well-being of children by providing the students with after school meals, a place to stay while their parents are at work, and outlets for them to be active, social, and for learning. It also fulfills the United Way's education priorities by providing opportunities for after school learning and a comfortable environment to do homework for students. Students are given a sense of belonging and learn to interact with others in appropriate ways which is invaluable for the rest of their lives.

2. Program Strengths.

The Boys and Girls club has a very comfortable environment as well as engaging activities for students. There are also opportunities for students to improve their leadership skills by running their own organization with the guidance of adults as well as the freedom of fundraising their own budget to support causes that they find worthy. As mentioned above, they also provide a sense of community and safe space for kids after school and during the summer when they might otherwise not have that opportunity.

3. Program Weaknesses.

The greatest weakness (and I suspect "challenge" would be the more accurate term) is the lack of space. They need to grow their foot print in order to further expand their ability to serve the communities they are in. Recently they opened a club in Nevada and expect that to grow over time, but they are currently at capacity and then some. They would need resources for space and support staff to expand further.

4. Financial Outlook.

The BOD runs a tight ship. The clubs are well run and efficient in the services they provide, and they are fiscally sound. Reductions to current funding would of course lower their ability to provide these services, and an increase in funding would be required to expand on that they can currently handle.

5. Internal Management Practices.

They board is actively working to raise funds with the addition of a new Development Director who is responsible for the majority of fundraising planning. On other general matters, the board is on top of things in terms of managing the people and assets to make sure the club runs efficiently and safely.

General Assessment:

Not much new in 2018 here. The Boys and Girls club has been serving children in need for many years and routinely has to turn children away. The service that is provided is invaluable for students to excel in their academics and personal lives. The board of directors run the organization well, ensuring that money is not wasted and that their activities are within budget. It would be very beneficial to the community of Ames and Iowa for ASSET to continue AND, if possible, to increase funding Boys and Girls Club as best it can to expand their services to those in need.