

Liaison Report for Boys and Girls Club Of Story County

November 25th, 2019

Liaison: Kirk Youngberg

1. Need for the program.

The need for this program is strong. There are more kids than spaces at times, and as an organization that exists to promote youth development and safe places where they can go, the community should continue to support The Club. Youth, from the ages of 7 to 18, can use the club as a place to go after school for meals, a place to stay while parents work, as well as the social and learning aspects provided. Many youths work on school work, find sanctuary from unsafe environments or situations, as well as seek guidance from the staff at the club. They are part of something at The Club, and they learn skills and strategies that will benefit them all through their lives.

2. Program strengths:

The Boys and Girls Club is a comfortable, inviting place that has after school learning, nutrition, and activities for youth that may be at risk. They encourage entrepreneurship, fundraising, management skills, and fostering responsibility through their myriad programs and activities, as well as simply being a safe space for kids who need it. They are actively working on collaboration with area schools to extend their ability to provide services to kids of all ages in more age-appropriate settings. For example, they are trying to find collaborative space at different age-range schools so that the older kids might be surrounded more by their peers and be able to participate in more targeted, age specific endeavors.

3. Program weaknesses.

Similar to last year, the “weaknesses” this organization has are largely attributed to a lack of funding to proceed with the much-needed growth in their services, both in space and in human resources. Growing through new locations will pose payroll challenges that would need to be met to ensure that the quality of services provided remains high.

4. Financial outlook.

The Clubs ability to fundraise is strong, and the board is very motivated to secure funding through the clubs efforts in fundraising events and donations, but also through their own efforts. They are all quick to sign up for whatever event is going on, and they provide a tremendous amount of exposure through their own efforts outside of board meetings. ASSET funds are, as always, crucial to the continuation of services as they are, as well as a key part of any future expansions for the maintenance of service quality. They just went through an audit and came out squeaky clean.

5. Internal management practices.

The development director hired last year didn't work out the way they wanted, and so another is hopefully on the way. The board members are very much in tune with their mission, and are very motivated to see the mission of the Club continue on and increase it's role in the community as possible.

General Assessment:

The efforts to find creative ways to stretch resources and provide more services to area youth continues in earnest. Unfortunately, they still occasionally have to turn away kids in need, particularly in the summer months. Given the benefit to the kids they do help, it is important to help The Boys and Girls Club achieve their goals as is possible with ASSET funds. The board is very professional, and they are very good stewards of their mission and resources. It would be beneficial to the community if the Club could realize some of their collaborative spaces with local schools, and an increase in ASSET funding, were this to happen, would be crucial in making this work.