

2017-18

Impact Report



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF COACHELLA VALLEY

42600 Cook St., Ste. 120
Palm Desert, CA 92211
760-836-1160 www.bgcfcv.org

Acknowledgments

We believe in providing transparency to our stakeholders. This report is a first attempt towards delivering on our commitment to transparency, integrity, and constant improvement. This report represents a crucial first step, one that could not have been achieved without the invaluable support of the **Weingart Foundation**, whose capacity-building support over the last two years has empowered us to produce the organization's first impact report.

Special thanks should be given to various people for their meaningful participation towards this endeavor; David Bernal, Desiree Porras and Carolina Vasquez for their valuable contributions on writing this report; Tracy Reed, Siah Nix, Juanita Godwin and Ray Amador for their help in collecting data; and Tony Williams and Dr. Quinton Egson for their leadership support.

Mission Statement

To save and enhance the lives of the young people of our community, especially those with economic and/or social needs by offering a safe haven and meaningful youth development services provided by a caring and qualified staff.

Who Are We?

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Coachella Valley (BGCCV) serves underprivileged youth and teens in four communities: Indio, Coachella, La Quinta and Mecca. We currently have 69 paid professional staff supplemented by 245 part-time volunteers. In addition to our four clubhouses, we have two afterschool-satellite programs. All of our sites are located within two eastern Coachella Valley school districts: Desert Sands Unified School District (DSUSD) and Coachella Valley Unified School District (CVUSD).

Serving over 6,000 youth in four Coachella Valley communities

Each year, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Coachella Valley impacts over 6,000 youth, ages 7 to 18, by providing daily access to a broad range of programs and services. Aligned with Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA), we aim to implement and secure core initiatives that promote the social, educational, vocational, and emotional development of our Club members.

Local Need

With over 50 years of experience, we have found time and time again that disadvantaged youth have a myriad of needs that require attention, support and resources. We are often left with the difficult task of identifying which areas should receive more resources to produce the most impact in a child's life. Over time and through extensive research we have strategically chosen to narrow our focus based on three critical outcome areas; academic success, healthy lifestyles, and good character & citizenship. Relevant research has proven that special attention to these three important areas can help level the playing field for disadvantaged youth and provide them with the tools to succeed in life. The following information presents a snapshot of our local needs and what we are doing as an organization to increase opportunities and support the lives of our Club members.

Academic Success

Boys & Girls Clubs of Coachella Valley considers education the great equalizer, a tool in students' toolkits that helps bridge the opportunity gap. The importance of academic success becomes more relevant when we consider the local need. In Desert Sands Unified School District, 26% of students did NOT meet the English/Language Arts standard as measured by the state assessments and only 50% of students met the state's target achievement level ⁱⁱ. Similarly, 36% of students did NOT meet the mathematics state standard and ONLY 3% percent of students met the state's target

ONLY 25% of students met the State's target achievement level for English/Language Arts

achievement level ⁱⁱ. The data for Coachella Valley School District is even less encouraging. In the 2016-2017 school-year, only 25% of students met the state's target achievement level for English/Language Arts, while 17% met the target achievement level for math ⁱⁱ.

In addition to low performing schools, Coachella Valley youth in communities of need are also challenged with drop-out rates and low post-secondary education achievement. In 2016, 31% of individuals in the Coachella Valley ages 25 or older did NOT receive a high school diploma. In comparison to Riverside County (20%) and the state of California (18%), adults living in the Coachella Valley are 1.5 times more likely to not complete high school ⁱ. The high school graduation and higher education completion rates are even more staggering when we look at the communities we serve:

- Indio, 74% of its residents have a high school diploma and 16% have a bachelor's degree,
- Coachella, 52% of its residents have a high school diploma and 3% have a bachelor's degree,
- La Quinta, 90% of its residents have a high school diploma and 36% have a bachelor's degree, and
- Mecca, 24% of its residents have a high school diploma and 1% have a bachelor's degree.

Based on these local academic gaps we have directed focus on providing supplemental help for difficult topics such as English and Math to ensure academic success and high school graduation. We also aim to encourage members to explore and develop a passion for Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM) related fields that will help develop skills needed for the modern workforce. Above all, it is our mission to encourage members to not only do well in school but to pursue and succeed in higher education. Our education programs are designed to ensure that all Club members promote from one grade to the next, graduate on time from high school, and are ready for a post-secondary education and a 21st-century career. Our target education programs include but are not limited to **Power Hour, Project Learn, Diplomas 2 Degrees** and **STEM**.

Healthy Lifestyles

In order to promote healthy lifestyles, we understand that access to healthy food is a basic necessity. This is a priority for Boys & Girls Clubs of Coachella Valley because 77% of our Club members qualify for free or reduced lunch. This means that our youth often depend on school lunch to secure a meal. Although eligible students have access to breakfast and lunch during the school year, the same is not always true during the summer months. That being said, BGCCV has identified food insecurity as a major need tied directly to our healthy lifestyles initiative, especially during the summer months. BGCCV has partnered with local agencies to meet this need. Our first partnership began with local school districts delivering thousands of meals to our Clubs

77% of our Club members come from low-income homes!

each summer. With the support of FIND Food Bank we also distribute fresh produce for Club members to take home to their families each week during the summer. Food items include nutritional essentials like a variety of organic fruits and vegetables, rice, and milk, among other items. These food items support our efforts to emphasize the importance of a healthy home-cooked meal.

In addition to food insecurity, other local health needs that impact the children of the Coachella Valley include low physical activity and obesity. For the 2016-2017 school-year, Desert Sands Unified School District reported that 33 percent of fifth-grade students were classified as being at health risk. A similar trend is seen in middle school, where 24% of seventh-grade students and 36% of ninth-grade students were classified as being at health risk ⁱⁱⁱ. Furthermore, 33% of Coachella Valley children, ages 2 to 10, are considered obese, comparable with 21% of children, ages 11 to 17

vii

“33% of Coachella Valley children, ages 2 to 10, are considered obese.”

Given these risk factors, our focus here is two-fold focus: to improve health behaviors by encouraging better nutritional choices and to increase regular physical activity. By teaching members about nutritional portion control, healthy snack alternatives, and a variety of fun physical interaction, we aim to promote wellness in our community. Providing programs that develop young people’s capacity to engage in positive behaviors and nurture their well-being gives youth the opportunity to grow into self-sufficient adults. Our target health programs include **Triple Play, Healthy Habits**, Hiking Club, Tennis Club, organized sports leagues and tournaments, among others.

Good Character and Citizenship

“Encouraging community service helps produce engaged youth that will inherit the community’s responsibility and, in turn, become productive citizens”

Boys & Girls Clubs of Coachella Valley takes a holistic approach to improve our youth’s overall development. Such an approach looks at also prioritizing socio-emotional development that stems from instilling good character and fondness for community involvement. As a community, we face several challenges that will require engaged, caring community members coming together for the greater good.

The literature on community involvement suggests that there are perceived benefits for individuals engaged in the community. Such benefits include improved “physical and psychological health, self-confidence, self-esteem, sense of personal empowerment and social relationships” ^v. Community service also promotes feelings of empathy and self-efficacy ^{vi}. More importantly, young people that participate in community service gain a sense of empowerment and are more likely to be “involved in future community action” ^{vi}.

Encouraging community service helps produce engaged youth that will inherit the community's responsibility and, in turn, become productive citizens. In line with this research, BGCCV provides youth development programs that encourage members to serve the community and develop character traits such as leadership, responsibility, empathy, perseverance, among others. Such character development programs include **Keystone Club**, **Torch Club**, and the **LINKS Juvenile Delinquency Prevention** program.

Results

Through our key programs we targeted the aforementioned needs in efforts to bring forth change in our communities. Below are our key summaries and an infographic report that summarizes our progress during the 2017-18 fiscal year.

Education

The Diplomas 2 Degrees (d2D) college-readiness program was active in Indio, Mecca, La Quinta and Coachella. A total of 570 Club members from the ages of 12 to 18 participated in the program with a total of 48 high school seniors. As a result of d2D, 96% of participating high school seniors graduated on time. Our Club Staff are continuing to work and support the two seniors who are behind on their school credits.

80% of graduating seniors will be attending college in the fall!

Additionally, 80% of all the graduating seniors reported to be attending college this fall. Our Club members have been accepted to some of the most prestigious college campuses across the state including, UC Santa Barbara, Cal State Pomona, and UC Irvine.

Furthermore, Our STEM programs showed impressive results. Members participating in STEM programs were surveyed before and after the completion of the program. The survey included questions that measured members' attitudes towards mathematics and science. The number of members that agreed with the statement "Math is hard for me" decreased by 89% after completion of the program. Similarly, the number of members that agreed with the statement "Knowing science will help me earn a living" increased by 47 percent after completion of the program.

Health

We are proud to report our impact on health and nutrition knowledge. Prior to participating in our Healthy Habits program, youth take a ten-question test to assess their knowledge of health and nutrition. The questions range from portion control and nutritional knowledge to physical activity. Our pre-test data showed that 50% of participating youth scored 60% or less. After engaging in our program, 94% of youth answered 7-10 questions correctly about portion control, physical activity and nutrition knowledge.

**87% of Club members
reported physical activity
levels ranging from 3-7
days a week**

Upon reviewing the physical activity data, we found that pre-surveys and post surveys responses did not change dramatically. Although there was only a 10% increase in youth participating in physical activity 5-7 days a week, the majority of participating Club members (87%) were already engaging in physical activity at least 3 days a week. We believe this is due to the fact that Boys & Girls Clubs youth have daily access to the many physical activity programs and services available to them after school and during the summer. It is worth mentioning that with that 10% increase in post surveys, a total of 147 youth, or 68% of participating youth, reported being physically active at least 5 days a week compared to 49% of overall Coachella Valley youth reporting activity levels of 5-7 days weekly^{viii}.

Character

Our leadership programs also showed results worth mentioning. Keystone and LINKS programs across all our clubhouses completed a total of 6,165 hours of community service. Furthermore, our LINKS program offered a mentoring component. After the completion of LINKS, the percent of members that reported talking about their problems to an adult increased by 128%.

**96% of parents reported
that the Club helped their
children stay out of trouble**

Finally, our parent surveys revealed positive findings. Approximately 96% of parents reported that the Club helped their children stay out of trouble. Furthermore, 98% of parents reported that their children are on track to pass to the next grade level. Most parents feel that the Club provides a safe place for their children to participate in activities that encourage academic success, citizenship, and healthy lifestyles.

Conclusion

Boys & Girls Clubs of Coachella Valley's commitment to quality has helped shape the programs reported in this document and the reporting process as a whole. Quality programming ensures that we are more efficient in providing meaningful youth development, allowing us to better fulfill our mission. Furthermore, BGCCV values constant improvement. This is achieved through continuous cycles of honest assessment and constant fine-tuning to ensure programs don't stagnate and quality doesn't suffer.

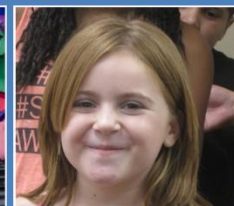
This document is a testament to our efforts to maintain programs of the highest standards, designed, implemented, and assessed with the utmost integrity. The focus of this document has been on the three priority outcomes; academic success, healthy lifestyle and citizenship and good character. Providing programming that targets these priority outcomes in a safe place to learn and grow offers youth opportunities to succeed and instills hope for a better future.

2017-18 PROGRAM IMPACT

SAVING AND ENHANCING LIVES FOR OVER 50 YEARS!



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF COACHELLA VALLEY



Education Health Character



98%

of members are on track to pass the next grade level



94%

of Club members improved in nutrition and fitness knowledge



96%

of parents reported the Club helps their children stay out of trouble



80%

of Club seniors reported to be attending college this school year



81,945

free meals and snacks were provided for Club youth during the year



6,165

hours of community service completed by Club youth

Numbers based on participating youth per program.

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES THIS IMPACT POSSIBLE. THANK YOU!

Endnotes

ⁱ U.S. Census Bureau (2016). American Community Survey 5-year estimates. Retrieved from Census Reporter Profile page for Coachella Valley CCD, Riverside County, CA <<https://censusreporter.org/profiles/06000US0606590520-coachella-valley-ccd-riverside-county-ca/>>

ⁱⁱ California Department of Education (2016) - [CAASPP Office](#).

ⁱⁱⁱ California Department of Education (2016) - High School and Physical Fitness Assessment Office.

^{iv} California Department of Education (2016) – Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System.

^v Attree, P., French, B., Milton, B., Povall, S., Whitehead, M., & Popay, J. (2011). The experience of community engagement for individuals: a rapid review of evidence. *Health & social care in the community*, 19(3), 250-260.

^{vi} Lakin, R., & Mahoney, A. (2006). Empowering youth to change their world: Identifying key components of a community service program to promote positive development. *Journal of School Psychology*, 44(6), 513-531.

^{vii} LeComte-Hinely, J. R. & Segovia, T. (2015). Health of Children 0 to 10 in the Coachella Valley. Palm Desert, CA: HARC, Inc.

^{viii} HARC, Inc. (2017). Coachella Valley Community Health Survey. Available online at www.HARCdata.org