

Boys and Girls Club

Volunteer Your Services



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Wayne Redman

The Hempstead Boys and Girls Club celebrated its 10 year anniversary in June 2007. The initial goal of the club was to address the desperate need for constructive after school and summer recreational opportunities for the school age children and youth residing in Hempstead Village.

Hempstead happens to be the largest incorporated Village in NY State, and although it is officially a suburb, with a population of approximately 58,000, which translates to 13,000 people per square mile, the Village of Hempstead is quite urban in character. Of the 6,208 families that reside in Hempstead, 5,878 or roughly 95% are below the poverty line. Hempstead is confronted with high drop out rates, teen pregnancy issues, gang activity, youth offenses and high unemployment.

One could easily look at the Village of Hempstead, as a peace of America that is a threatening environment for its youth and devoid of promise. The Hempstead Boys & Girls Club decided ten years ago not to take that view. The Club chose to position itself as a tangible measure of hope. It offers young people what they need and want most; adults who respect and listen to them; a safe environment, where they can have fun and be themselves; and interesting, constructive activities that serve to channel youthful energy into challenging pursuits.

In addition to the main site, at 40 Washington Street, where we have a Teen Center, and operate our Summer Day Camp, the Club operates after school programs at the Franklin and Fulton Elementary schools, as well as a satellite site in the Lakeview Public Library. We currently serve over 1,500 youth, and should exceed this number by 15% before year end.

Studies have shown that children who participate in after school programs earn better grades and have higher test scores, for these

children spend less time in front of the TV, playing video games, and more time interacting and developing the habits and work ethic they will need to succeed in the world. In fact the students who participated in our after school program and took the 4th grade ELA exam scored 15% better than the overall school scores for Hempstead Village.

In a world in which there are more African American and Hispanic, young men going to jail, than graduating from our colleges and universities, there is a desperate need to provide an alternative. The Hempstead Boys and Girls Club is that alternative, for it provides hope. As president of the Board of Directors, I view the work of the Club as providing hope for our youth. We know that 90% of Boys and Girls Club of America alumni graduate high school compared to 85% at the national level; and 26% of alumni are just as likely as the general population to earn a college degree... ***Boys & Girls Clubs make a difference...57% of Club alumni feel their clubs actually saved their lives.***

Our mission is to inspire and enable all young people, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens.

We are in the business of turning dreams into realities, for we believe that when our youth reach their full potential, we create a better world for everyone, a better world with a brighter future.

Not every youth is going to become the next Denzel Washington or A-Rod or J.Lo... ***but each and everyone of the youth that pass through the club will leave knowing that somebody cared... somebody was there for them. They leave with Hope.***

The Hempstead Boys and Girls Club, a source of hope for our youth, and a "Positive Place For Kids", who are the foundation of the future.

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