

Running Head: THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

The Boys and Girl Club

Anita Wilson, Cidney Hinchman, Conor Deering, Mackenzie Noel, Richard Kumpi, Kimberly

Sanchez

Lakeview College of Nursing

Point of Contact, Degree, Background and List of Organizational Leadership

The Boys and Girls Club we attended as a group located on Garfield Park, 850 N Griffin St in Danville, Illinois. The person of contact for the Boys and Girls Club in Danville is Robert Gifford. Gifford has a background and bachelor's degree in business, management, and marketing that he obtained at Illinois State University in 1988. He is the executive director and CEO at the Boys and Girls Club of Danville, Illinois, and he has been in this position since January of 2013.

History of Organization, Who Founded this Organization and How Large is the Organization?

The Boys and Girls Club is a national, nonprofit organization that provides programs and services to promote and enhance boys' and girls' development by installing a sense of competence, usefulness, belonging, and influence (Boys & girls clubs, 2018). The facility has multiple locations worldwide. Today, 4,300 clubs serve nearly four million young people. The organization has its headquarters in Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, New York City, and Los Angeles (Boys & girls clubs, 2018). The boys and girls club has served children for 150 years, helping millions worldwide. "Boys & Girls Clubs of America" was officially adopted on September 12, 1990. Today's national membership is 61% boys and 39% girls (Boys & girls clubs, 2018). Since the first club opened in 1860, it has ensured that "programs are available in the areas of education, the environment, health, the arts, careers, alcohol/drug, and pregnancy prevention, gang prevention, leadership development, and athletics" (Boys & girls clubs, 2018). The club has been able to staff more than 50,000 trained professionals in 4,000 local clubs, serving 4.2 million boys and girls (Boys & girls clubs, 2018). There are many clubs in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and on U.S.military bases around the world (Boys & girls clubs, 2018). The first

Running Head: THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

known club was known as "The Dashaway Club." It was founded in 1860 in Hartford, Connecticut, by Elizabeth Hammersley and two sisters, Mary and Alice Goodwin (Boys & girls clubs, 2018). The women invited a few boys to their homes for refreshments and recreation. The club became so popular that they rented a meeting hall and offered music and books. In 1880, Mary Stuart Hall reorganized the "Dashaway Club" as "The Good Will Boys Club." Mary Hall wanted to give opportunities and guidance to troubled youth. The "Good Will Boys Club" continues today as Hartford's Boys & Girls Club (Boys & girls clubs, 2018).

Some clubs began by accident. One example is the New Haven Boys & Girls Club. In 1871, the United Workers of New Haven worried their members partaking too much in the local saloons (Boys & girls clubs, 2018). A group of mischief boys invaded the local saloons to prevent this from occurring again. They hired a Midwestern farm boy named John C. Collins (Boys & girls clubs, 2018). John took care of the mischief boys for a small fee. He then found a space, and he stuck a sign on the door that said, "Boys' Club." This new club became sponsored by local businessmen who were glad to pay to keep the boys off the street. The club had many boys who had nowhere else to go in little time. John tried to teach the boys manners and cleanliness, but this approach did not work, so instead, they had fun and played games which John agreed to if they were able to follow the rules (Boys & girls clubs, 2018). In that time, 2,000 boys enjoyed and benefited from his organization. He went on to create club networks throughout Massachusetts and Connecticut. Soon, the clubs in New York and New England, Philadelphia, Chicago, and Indianapolis, then California (Boys & girls clubs, 2018). By 1894, San Francisco had two Boys' Clubs. All these clubs offered low-fee memberships to boys of every religious group.

During the Great Depression, the Boys' Clubs of America faced another significant loss. C.J. Atkinson, the chief professional BCA officer, retired. Since there was no person to fulfill this role, President William Hall served as a volunteer and ruled the organization (Boys & girls clubs, 2018). During this challenging time in history, everyone pitched in to meet the demands of the troubled times. Boys' Club workers accepted "small salaries; some clubs had established reserve funds, which helped them weather the financial breakdown; many benefactors provided additional funds when possible" (Boys & girls clubs, 2018). Despite the world's condition during that time, the organization did not lose any club affiliations. When David Armstrong, the longtime Director of the Worcester, Massachusetts Boys' Club, became the Director of the national organization in 1941, he developed this fundamental statement: "The Boys' Club provides for the wholesome use of leisure time; for the building of health; for the development of recreational and vocational skills; for the leadership and guidance that produce men better fitted for the responsibilities of citizenship."

Mission Statement, Philosophy, and Purpose of the Organization

The Boys and Girls Club states its mission is to "Enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens" (Our mission & story, 2019). According to the BGCA youth outcome data, "97% of club teens expect to graduate from high school, and 88% expect to complete post-secondary education" (Our mission & story, 2019). These statistics prove that the organization is following through with its mission statement on youth success. The vision and purpose of the organization are to "provide a world-class Club Experience that assures success is within reach of every young person who enters our doors, with all members on track to graduate from high school with a plan for the future, demonstrating good character and citizenship, and living a healthy lifestyle" (Our

mission & story, 2019). The mission and core beliefs of Boys & Girls Clubs fuel their commitment to promoting safe, positive, and inclusive environments for all (Our mission & story, 2019). Boys & Girls Clubs of America supports all youth and teens – of every race, ethnicity, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, ability, socio-economic status, and religion – in reaching their full potential (Our mission & story, 2019).

What Services are Offered?

The services offered at the Boys and Girls Club differs amongst location. At the Danville location, volunteers and staff offer assistance with homework and meals. Children are also assigned tablets that to complete their homework assignments after school. The children can also participate in sports and games that help physically active, such as basketball contests and dodge ball. The organization also helps supply the youth with school supplies, clothes, and books. It provides any service and program that promotes academic success and a healthy lifestyle. The organization's other services allow the youth to express themselves artistically through art projects and coloring. It is standard for the Danville location to have an annual fundraising campaign, carnivals, snowball fights, and other youth activities.

What population is served? Is this a long- or short-term service?

Since the Boys and Girls Club serves youth aged six to eighteen years old, the services should not be long-term. With the support and meaningful connection that the children make with their peers and adults, it is common for them to return to volunteer and contribute to the organization when they are adults. The population served at the Boys and Girls Club ranges from first graders to twelfth grade. At the Danville location, the children come from many different schools being Liberty Elementary School, Southwest Elementary, Edison Elementary, Northeast Elementary, North Ridge Middle School, South View Upper Elementary School, Danville High

Running Head: THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

School. Boys & Girls Clubs serve youth ages 6-18 from all communities and walks of life. The location of the clubs is wherever youth most need them, including rural and urban areas, public housing communities, public and private schools, and Native lands. Clubs also serve military-connected youth through BGCA-affiliated Youth Centers on U.S. military installations worldwide.

Is the location Clean, Friendly, Safe, and In Good Condition? Is There Transportation Offered?

The Boys and Girls Club in Danville is clean and in good condition. The staff and children are amicable and kind. The Boys & Girls Clubs continue to do whatever it takes to serve kids, families, and communities, even as the pandemic fluctuates. They provide temperature screening for everyone, including the children that enter the facility and hand sanitizer. The organization's location is in Danville on Griffin Street at Garfield Park. The area is easy to get to with the use of directions. There is also a big sign on the building with the organization's name, making it easier for passersby to locate the facility. There is transportation offered for the youth to get to the location. Each of the children's schools brings them to the facility via a bus. After the program is over, each child's parent picks them up. Around 5 pm, parents start talking and say they pick up their child. Staff then bring the child out to the parent or guardian.

What is one way the organization relevant to the nursing profession?

The Boys and Girls Club correlates to the nursing profession directly affecting population and global health. They provide children with after-school programs that are safe and affordable and set an example for the youth in a supportive environment. The organization keeps children away from crime by engaging them in positive play and other activities. It helps school and community settings in many different places across the country by providing children with new

opportunities, positive role model relationships, healthy lifestyles, character and leadership opportunities, and educational development with career exploration. The youth can build new positive relations within the population through the organizations.

How did you serve the organization? How did your service impact the organization?

As a group, we served the organization by interacting with the youth. Many of us watched the children display teamwork by playing different sports in the gym and playing jeopardy. One group member was able to help run the cornhole station at a carnival located in the gym. Others were able to contribute to the service of the community by engaging in conversations with the staff and children. Another group member assisted in playing games and helping the children with math to accurately add up all their points to win a prize of their choice at the end of the day. In addition, they helped the staff clean up the gym at the end of the carnival. As a group, we were sure to be engaged by helping the staff attend to the children in any way, which included helping assist in a carnival. The gym had multiple games set up where the kids could play and win points that they could turn in at the end for a prize. One group member assisted in the soccer area and helped teach the children how to aim the ball to score and win points. The group's services impacted the organization because we could directly assist the youth and provide extra hands to help continue the organization's success.

How can others in the community serve this organization?

The community of Danville can help better serve the Boys and Girls Club by volunteering their time to help the youth. Volunteers at a Boys & Girls Club can make a difference in the lives of youth and give back to their community. Each Boys and Girls Club fosters a fun and encouraging environment. Whether an individual helps with homework, coaches a game, or teaches an art project, they will have the opportunity to build healthy

Running Head: THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

relationships with young people eager for adult guidance and positively impact their lives. In turn, they will find that spending time with these young people positively impacts you (Volunteer, 2019). Donating to the organization is another way to serve the community. The community can also help by spreading the organization's word to generate more youths to partake in the Club.

How many people are employed with the organization?

This organization has been operating for approximately nine years. The Boys & Girls Club of Danville, IL, is estimated to generate \$444,404 in annual revenues and employs about 15 people at this single location.

References:

- Boys & girls clubs.* (2018, September 11). Social Welfare History Project.
<https://socialwelfare.library.vcu.edu/youth/boys-girls-clubs/>
- Our mission & story.* (2019). Bgca.org. <https://www.bgca.org/about-us/our-mission-story>
- Volunteer.* (2019). Wwww.bgca.org. <https://www.bgca.org/get-involved/volunteer>