



# **Great Futures Start Here!!**

## **Final Grant Report**

**Organization Name:** Boys & Girls Club El Dorado County Western Slope

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**Name of person submitting report:** Sean McCartney

**Title:** CEO

**Grant Title:** Sponsor a Child

**Award Date:** July, 1 2015

**Award Amount:** \$20,000

**Report Completed on August 26, 2016**

**1. Is the program/project proceeding as scheduled? If not, please lay out a revised schedule of activities and include the estimated completion date.**

Our Sponsor a Child program is truly at the heart of what we do as an organization. We provide a safe and positive place for all kids, regardless of their economic or home situation, to be a part of our Club. A Club that helps them start their GREAT FUTURES each and every day. Beginning in August of 2015, our sponsor a child children began attending our Clubs every day after school. The WFED grant of \$20,000 made it possible for 27 kids to be a part of our Club everyday during the 2015-2016 school year! 27 kids that otherwise would not have had the positive experience the Club provides. Thanks to this grant, the Club received an additional \$20,000, earmarked for our sponsor a child program and your impact is 54 kids participating in the Club! We raise monies for our Sponsor a Child program year round to ensure all kids the opportunity to be a part of our program!

**2. Which activities discussed in your original grant proposal have produced the anticipated results and which have not?**

Kevin lives at home with his Grandma in a one bedroom apartment. His Grandma tries her best but finances are tough and he is often the last kid picked up at our Clubhouse due to the two jobs she is working. Three years ago his father was arrested and incarcerated for molesting him. His mother is a drug addict and has not seen him in over a year. When he first started coming to the Club three years ago as a 9 year old he was broken and lost. One of the only constants in Kevin's life, other than adults letting him down, is the Boys & Girls Club. The Club is Kevin's happy place and it is at the Club that you see the amazing boy he truly is. It is at the Club where he is given the chance to be better than his past, to create a new and dynamic future.

In order to break the cycle of poverty, the Club works hard at rebuilding the self esteem and self worth of our kids. We do this day by day and child by child. The cycle is broken by providing tools for our young people. Here are some examples of the activities that our sponsor a child kids participate in. Keep in mind that the goal in all of this is to ensure that when our kids leave our program they are better equipped to tackle the world that awaits them:

- **Daily Snack & Supper Program:** This program not only provides two nutritious meals to our kids each day but we also have health education programming that provides our kids with lifelong knowledge about the benefits of eating healthy.
- **Academic Success:** Kevin could not read when he started coming to our Club. Now he can thanks to our daily reading intervention program. We also provide daily homework help to our kids, to ensure our kids are on track and headed in the right direction. Many of our kids do not have computers at home and are at a terrible disadvantage with their peers because of this. The Club has a dedicated Computer Lab for our kids so that no matter what their economic status at home is they can get the computer skills training they need at the Club.
- **Sports, Fitness and Recreation:** We provide structured sports, fitness & recreational activities daily that keep our kids active and involved. We teach teamwork and sportsmanship and the importance of commitment. Whether it is organized team sports in our gym, tournaments in our game room or outside activities, our kids are given the opportunity to improve themselves and the way they feel about themselves. All these skills are critical for

our kids who often cannot afford to play sports outside of the Club and for many; the Club is their only opportunity to play any organized sports at all.

- **Arts & Music:** All of our Club kids have the opportunity to participate in daily Art and Music programming at our Club. Many of our kids cannot afford music or art lessons and the Club provides these free of charge to our members, including our scholarship kids!
- **Character & Leadership Development:** Finally, in order to help our kids break the cycle of poverty we provide an array of character and leadership programs designed to prepare our kids for success in the future. Our Junior Staff program provides real job training experience to our young people. We also have classes that focus on self esteem and positive decision making for our kids. A positives sense of self is critical in breaking the cycle of poverty and letting these kids know that they are special and important is job one!

Through the structured programming designed by staff, the kids at the Club are able to spend their afterschool time in a safe and secure environment. A healthy snack, homework help, a class on making good choices, athletic events and the positive attention of positive adult role models- all combine to truly make a lasting impact on the kids that walk through our doors. The kids that are on scholarship all desperately need the life skills they are receiving. In order to break the cycle it takes hard work and it takes consistency. The kids in our program know that we will be there for them. Know that no matter what, our doors will be open and that we will be a stabilizing factor in their otherwise unstable existence.

### **3. What are your accomplishments and indicators? What lessons have you learned during the past six months that will help you to achieve your intended outcomes?**

The biggest indicator of our success as it relates to Sponsor a Child is our increased daily attendance this past school year to 180 kids each and every day at our Placerville location. This was an increase of 30 kids each day over the previous year and of that 180, over 100 were on some type of scholarship or grant. We work very hard to ensure that all children that wish to attend are attending and we did this very well last year.

We served over 54,000 meals to our kids in Placerville this past year! Kids that needed the meals, needed the Club and needed you WFED! We offered structured programming to all our Sponsored kids that focused on their Academic Success, Healthy Lifestyles and Good Character and Citizenship!

The key to a solid program is having a solid staff to offer that program. The vision of our staff is detailed below in a memo that the CEO sent out in mid August to his Placerville team:

As the leaders at our site you drive what the focus is, choose what you magnify as important and clear the clutter from things that take away from the issues that you deem important. You get to choose everyday to magnify either what you got or what is not. My recommendation is to focus on what you got because what you got is an incredible team, an incredible platform and the opportunity to change lives daily. You will have members of your team that take the other end of the magnification spectrum over the next many months and it is your job to lead them back, to show them the good and to drive the positive parts of the work they are doing. You are the magnifying glass for your units and it is through you that your units will either focus on the good and the possibilities or focus on the flip side. Clearly my expectation is that you magnify things that make us better and help us live our mission!

**Communicate:**

In order to be the magnifying glass for your team then you must foster a culture that encourages communication. If there is conflict then deal with it quickly, if there is praise to be given then give it, if there are corrections to be made then make them. Far too often teams fall victim to the unmet expectations and unexpressed expectations cycle. If you do not tell your team what you expect (unexpressed expectations) then it is difficult for you to be angry when they don't deliver (unmet expectations). The way to avoid this is simple. Tell them what you want and when they do it recognize them and when they don't call them on it!

**My expectations for the year ahead-** Create a culture at your Clubhouse that encourages your staff and your kids to be the best they can be by focusing on what really matters and communicating your expectations openly and honestly to your team. To hold staff and kids accountable when they fall short and to provide them the tools necessary to grow from their mistakes and to ultimately thrive under your leadership. Set clear goals for your Club, communicate those goals to your team and to me and then hold yourself and your team accountable to reaching and exceeding those goals so as a result your 2016-17 school year is the very best it can be! A great year for you is only possible with a great year from your team!

Thank you in advance for your work for the Club and the kids we serve...Great Futures Start Here because of you...

4. **Have you encountered any unanticipated financial or other difficulties? If so, please explain.** No
5. **What portion of The Women's Fund El Dorado grant dollars have been expended to date and for what purposes? Please detail expenditures by category as shown in your original proposal budget (Please use the Excel spreadsheet Line Item Budget template provided). Do you anticipate any budget shortfalls or surpluses? If so, please explain. If all funds have not yet been expended, please note estimated completion date.**

All \$20,000 of this award has been expended as was detailed in the initial budget submitted last year.

**6. Additional narrative.**

As we prepare to for our new building in Placerville, the Club is making a statement that all of our kids deserve the very best. This new building is a statement for our kids that we believe in them and that they deserve everything we can do for them. Every day we do a lot of things- we feed our kids, we do programs with our kids, we do projects with our kids- and all of this is great and an important part of who we are...But none of this is as important as telling our kids ***"YES YOU CAN"***...

- ***YES YOU CAN*** be the first person in your family to graduate from college!
- ***YES YOU CAN*** be the first person in your family to not live in public housing!

- ***YES YOU CAN*** be the first person in your family to not go to jail!
- ***YES YOU CAN*** be the first person in your family to not be involved in a abusive relationship!

We must and we do fill our kids with ***YES YOU CAN***, because far too often they are told ***NO YOU CAN'T!*** Far too often our kids are judged by the color of their skin, the clothes they wear, & the people they hang out with and not by the goodness they possess and the potential that they have...Far too often our kids are told there is no way they can be successful because no one before them from their neighborhood or family has ever done anything...Far too often we see our kids settling for less because all they have been taught is that success is for someone else...

Not at our Club...Not with our Kids...By simply encouraging our kids we are giving them hope for a better tomorrow...The act of positive encouragement is the single most important thing that happens at our clubhouse everyday...It is through the ***YES YOU CAN*** that we truly create Great Futures...Through the ***YES YOU CAN*** that we break the cycle of negativity that has existed in our members life for far too long...

***YES YOU CAN- YES YOU CAN- YES YOU CAN!!!*** Today, 200 kids walked through our doors...200 kids that needed to hear ***YES YOU CAN***... The work we do is important and is shaping a generation of young people that desperately need ***YES YOU CAN***.

We are so thankful to the WFED for helping us inspire our kids to reach for the stars and go be the very best they can be...No more ***NO YOU CANT'S*** for our kids!

***YES YOU CAN and YES THEY WILL!!!***