



THE YOUTH EXPERIENCE: OUR WHY

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Sports

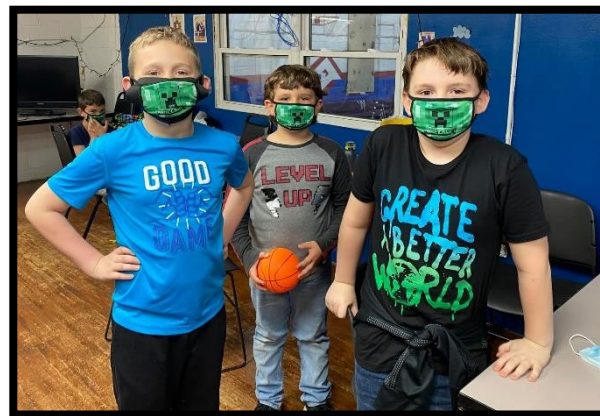
Ten members at HHC had the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of tennis during their first lesson. Members were engaged and excited to learn a new sport. Members are looking forward to learning more about tennis during the upcoming lessons. *"I never played tennis and had lots of fun. I want to play tennis every day."* -Tamara J. age 9

As we are wrapped up the basketball season, Hoover Eagles competed against the Wolves for their last league game. Each team played hard and demonstrated the skills they learned during practice. Teams showed good sportsmanship the entire season and they are now preparing for the upcoming playoffs.

May 20, 2021 was the first day of T-Ball practice. Members practiced the fundamentals of running the bases, their swing, and the proper baseball stance. Members will receive an hour of being physically active every Thursday and additional hours on some Saturdays during games.

STEM

HESC members participated in a hands-on STEM by making lava lamps in a jar using water, oil, food coloring, and a couple other items! The lamps had a very beautiful and calming movement, and member were able to experience science and mental wellness in one.



In the Best Buy Teen Tech Center, members spent one week preparing for a fun game day. They had the opportunity to get a feeling for what Esports looks like. Members played against three different sites. They were able to exchange game tags with the other Clubs as well as invite the other Club members to parties and games. The members played around in the Rec Room on Xbox which is the best place to build and play games together. They were able to party up with friends from sites like Bentwood, Bethalto, and TCOE with the ability to chat, hang out, explore player-created rooms, etc. NBA 2k taught our members at HHC a valuable lesson about life which is that practice makes perfect. Our members often think they are the best in NBA 2k, but they lost both rounds to the TCOE. After the lost they started looking up new tricks to improve their game!

HEHS members used their new Cricut machine and designed Mother's Day t-shirts and cards as gifts to their mothers. It was a bit tedious but after we got over the learning curve, our member Kah'Ryn quickly excelled in designing and pressing his t-shirt. The project came out flawless! Members returned to club and shared how appreciative their mothers were for their thoughtful gifts.



Staff took advantage of the warmer weather to teach members about the vegetable planting process and how it connects to STEM with the engineering and design process of starting gardens. Staff even connected the lesson to this being a way that people can provide food for their families and that many individuals do this just for that reason.

"I am going to start my own garden so I can make money by feeding others." -Monttraill C. age 11

At TCOE, Tyrah H and Malana W, our science fair winners, explained the science behind their Rock Candy project, in which they had samples for the judges.

TCOE member Johnnie M. was able to capture a photograph he felt worthy enough to enter the BGCA National Fine Art and Photography Contest after learning to use multiple devices to take proper pictures. This is the photo Johnnie M. took and edited during Media Making for the National Fine Art Photography Contest.



Triple Play: Healthy Habits

During one lesson, members made a healthy snack, learning how to safely cut celery and eggs, using math to measure ingredients, talking about the benefits of certain ingredients, like celery, onion, and chicken. The end result was a very tasty treat!

Another session showed our members that we can still enjoy some of our favorite deserts by modifying the calories. The members made a low calorie banana pudding using graham crackers and bran flakes as the crust, 1% milk, low fat vanilla and banana cream pudding with a few vanilla wafers and bananas. Member Javan was so excited that he almost mixed all of his sliced bananas in his crust before staff had to redirect with the instructions of the recipe!

Members had the opportunity to create their own Cinco de Mayo meal, using ingredients like ground turkey, tortillas, chips, shredded cheese, guacamole, salsa, etc. As members cooked in the kitchen, a staff member decided to test their knowledge on what they learned about the importance of Cinco de Mayo and things they like about the Mexican culture.

"I like how good they can dance, I wish I had someone I knew how to dance and they could teach me." -Te'nyjah N. age 9

As the end of the programming year wound down, members experienced their last cooking lesson of the semester which was from the new Netflix show: Waffles and Mochi. Waffles and Mochi are from The Land of Frozen Food, the two best friends shared a dream: to become chefs! When these two taste-buddies are suddenly hired as the freshest employees of a whimsical supermarket, they're ready for the culinary adventure of a lifetime. With the help of friendly new faces like

the supermarket owner, Mrs. Obama. Waffles and Mochi is an exciting invitation to get kids and grown-ups cooking together in the kitchen and connecting to cultures around the globe. Members watched the first episode of the show where they talked about different types of tomatoes and areas they come from. When the show ended, they created a pasta with the highlight being cherry tomatoes. Members always enjoy being in the kitchen and trying new things. Opening the eyes of the members to cook healthier dishes and showing them how was the overall goal in coupling cooking with the lessons from our Healthy Habits program.

"I do not usually eat tomatoes because I think they are nasty but, hearing how healthy they are and how good they are in this pasta, I changed my mind about them." Aamir P. age 10

Triple Play: Daily Challenge

Adams Park Club girls have completed another successful quarter of Girls on the Run with an awesome volunteer coach Cassandra Q. and staff, KeMonica G. The girls completed 16 sessions with a physical activity component in a 6-week spam. The girls were determined to meet a goal to do their 5K run. Several of the girls participated in the last session to promote the program to our newest members about how much fun they had. One member, Londyn led several of the sessions to show off her leadership skills.

TCOE members enjoyed participating in the Fit N Fun Virtual Event! All members received a participation ribbon and bag full goodies including a t-shirt. Representatives from Club Fitness had members engaged in physical activity before the other club sites performed their chants. Some TCOE members earned trophies. We had three members earn outstanding attendance, one member earned for most improved, and then one was recognized as the overall MVP.

Our MVP Tyrell H. said, "The Club has helped me become more physically active than I've ever been which is very important to me."





During programming, members asked if they could do more exercises to get them in shape, as the Summer is approaching. Staff created an exercise stimulation from educating and training in physical fitness. She created sets of squats, wall sits, sprints, arm punches routine, jumping jacks, and planks to get the members working on shaping their full body. The goal of the staff is to not make the exercises difficult, but to prove to the kids that they can do more with fitness than they could have ever imagine. The only lesson is to not doubt yourself or limit yourself.

"Now I know why Ms. Emily stays so fit because she knows what she is doing. I am tired." -Darriona P.-D. age 9

Ten of Bentwood Townhomes top members were invited to the last field trip of this academic year to Six Flags. These members were invited because of their attendance of one hundred days or more, leadership within the Club, positive behavior they have shown throughout this academic year, and participation in activities and feedback on the activities we have for programming. Members were able to spend a total of four hours at the park on a Saturday, and were gifted lunch on the Club at their favorite fast food restaurant: McDonald's. From rollercoasters to playing games for prizes, the members were able to enjoy themselves at the park. The ability to reward the members for their hard work this academic year and know we were able to still stay COVID safe with the precautions we have in place as an organization and the precautions the park had in place, made this last trip with the group worthwhile.

"I am so happy I was picked to go because I love Six Flags and I have not gone in a long time." -Gabrielle C. age 9

"COVID made field trips impossible to go on but, y'all made it happen and I thank you because I had fun." -Donald Y. age 12

Triple Play: Social Recreation

Members worked on a banner for their end of the year celebration. They worked together to create the design and draw the letters. Afterwards, members traced their hands for the poster. At the party, members continued to work on the poster. Members also ended up using colored paper to cut out their hands and decorate the poster, adding their creativity to the project. The members were very excited for the celebration. Based off their smiles and laughter they all had a great time during it. It was the best way to commemorate our members' efforts and bring this school year to close. Staff at Be Great: Graduate! SLPS were especially excited to celebrate member Felicia P. as their Member of the Year and their Most Loyal Member! Felicia stuck with the team through three different site changes this year, and the team has



been so impressed with her growth and commitment to her academics during this pandemic school year. During the end of year celebration each member also got a superlative recognizing their achievements from one tough year.

"I'm kind of sad that after school is ending, but I really liked the party. Can you guys print off the pictures so that I can have them to hang up in my room?" -Zyion M. age 16

During the End of the School Year BASH at HHC, the girls enjoyed a Spa Day while the boys played in a Game Truck.

May 21st was the last day of Afterschool Programming at Bentwood Townhomes, and to make sure they sent everyone off with a bang to end the year, they had a celebration. While hot dogs, burgers and fries were being cooked/grilled, members had the opportunity to play games like potato sack racing, three legged racing, egg drop racing, sponge racing, and even a friendly game of kickball in the field. Volunteers were invited to come celebrate with members and staff as they stayed outdoors, to play and eat some delicious food. Our members who took the NYOI Survey were even able to pie staff member Ms. Emily in the face as part of their incentive for taking the survey.

"Man this was so much fun, having all these people here for us and playing all these games. I can't wait to do this again next year." -Cali S. age 7

BGCSTL Senior's had an awesome time celebrating their time with the Club at Incredible Pizza! They played video games, did some bowling, laser tag, rode roller coasters, and bumper cars. Congratulations to all the BGCSTL 2021 Seniors!



Drama Matters

Members at TCOE spent a week producing and performing their play entitled "Phenomenal Women." The play was presented to a mixture of in-person and online audiences. The audience consisted of fellow BGCSTL members, parents, staff, and community members. Members were able to tell their story and learn about the accomplishments of various women throughout history and over the course of many disciplines. The Phenomenal Women play, written by a staff member, is set in a courtroom where each Phenomenal Woman is on trial for having the audacity to be "phenomenal." Members enjoyed bringing these historical characters to life and in telling their stories.

"I'm already a phenomenal girl so I know that I will be a phenomenal woman!" -Shanae B. age 14

In the week following the performance, teen members reflected on their play. Analysis and exercises were given on the technical challenges of producing a play and how to stage/produce a play. Teen members also worked on producing Mother's Day songs on the stage while using the lights and performance techniques. This was done in collaboration with the Music Studio program as well.

"I would rather be behind the lights than on the stage because I'm shy." -John M. age 12

Members also worked in the theater on creating scenes and lighting to shoot a music video in conjunction with the Music Studio program. The group choreographed a routine and coordinated to the song created by the members. In addition, members participated in creating a dance routine for the Fit n Fun virtual event.

SMART Girls/Passport to Manhood

In SMART Girls, members discussed family dynamics and ways to deal with family drama. As we closed out the school, staff continued to remind our Smart Girls about coping techniques and strategies when dealing with family. The ladies had much to say about this subject and loved the discussion.

Bentwood Townhomes members have had the opportunity to meet many professionals across Saint Louis during the course of the Spring Semester, with virtual guest speakers dedicated to sharing stories and lessons they have learned or experienced from the topics of SMART Girls and Passport to Manhood. During one session, members had the opportunity to connect with Captain Moore from the Mentor St. Louis Program, who talked about the different careers offered within the Fire Department and how to get those jobs. Members had many questions for Captain Moore about how to be safe if they experienced a fire, or what it is like to drive a big red fire truck, to how scary the job of a firefighter is.

"Is it true that if you catch on fire you are supposed to stop, drop, and roll?" -Gabrielle C. age 9 *"Yes, to stop the fire from spreading, keep rolling on the ground until it sizzles out." -Captain Moore*

"What is it like being a woman in the fire department, because I do not see a lot of women firefighters?" -Aamir P. age 10 *"It feels great because I am one of the few women captains ever, I get to be a role model and pave a way for girls to see that it is possible to be a firefighter too and save people." -Captain Moore*

Captain Moore enjoyed the conversation with the members of Bentwood so much that she dropped off some Fire Department shirts, cups, and pencils for the members. Having the opportunity to have professionals from various careers discuss topics on mentoring, careers, changes from being a kid to an adult, health and fitness, etc. has been beneficial for our members. Creating opportunities for them to see people who look like them accomplishing their dreams and learning from their experiences has made the members dream bigger and make wiser decisions in life.

SMART Moves

Members participated in SMART Moves: Emotional Wellness Sessions. One session's theme was Mind, Body, and Soul. To begin, members participated in 5 Senses Grounding, identifying things they saw, felt, heard, smelled, and tasted as a means of centering themselves and slowing down. Members then reviewed the 50 Ways to Take a Break handout, and each identified a self-care practice they wanted to try. Members put that reflection into practice by creating a self-care plan, in which they outlined how they could care for their minds, bodies, and spirits, as well as named their goals and supportive people in their lives. To finish, members shared how they can use their self-care plans during finals and over the summer and provided words of encouragement and recognition to one another.

Staff were very impressed with what the members shared about the positive coping skills that they use and want to incorporate into their lives. Members shared that they want to practice self-care over the summer by meditating and writing poetry. Staff have seen a lot of growth in our member's socio-emotional skills and their ability to self-regulate during difficult situations this semester. Hopefully, their Self-Care Plans will be a tool they can use to keep up that work over the summer!

Power Hour

During Power Hour members used the time to catch up on past due school work before the school year end. Every day during Power Hour until the last day of afterschool program, members had a goal to complete at least two homework assignments during this time. Members worked with the tutor and YDPs to ensure academic success daily.

Mentor St. Louis

To wrap up the school year, MSL staff worked with each school administration to coordinate the final sessions to be in-person. With our BGCSTL Tent, staff set up spaces outside on the side lots of the schools for the celebration. Music was coming from the stereo, warm treats and juices were waiting to be indulged, superlatives were prepared to be passed out to the students, and personal handwritten notes plus gifts were present to give to our mentors for their work during this unusual mentoring year. The in-person celebrations were filled with excitement, from the students who have not seen the mentors all year physically, and for our mentors who missed the in-person connection with the students.

"This was our first year with the mentors, and I did not know you both were so tall!" -Khloe W. age 8

Unfortunately, since it rained on May 18th, Aspire's last session had to be conducted over Zoom (since volunteers are not allowed in the school). Even though their session was online, fun was still had as they entered the session to Celebration by Kool and the Gang playing in the background. With superlatives, doughnuts and juiced dropped off to the school before the session, and encouraging words from the mentors on the call, the session ended with much success.

As we wrapped up the sessions, staff wished the students as they enter into Summer soon, and of course added a reading challenge to their to-do list for Summer!

"I really liked all of our sessions, you all motivated me to do better in school and be a better person." -Kamani P. age 10

"I am so glad I got to see you all in-person, I miss the hugs from you all. At least we got to elbow touch today." -Jermiah J. age 8

The Mentor St. Louis Team is grateful for the dedication, impact, patience, and joy each student and mentor brought during this challenging year. WE CANNOT WAIT FOR NEXT YEAR!

BE GREAT! Graduate Program – Roosevelt High School

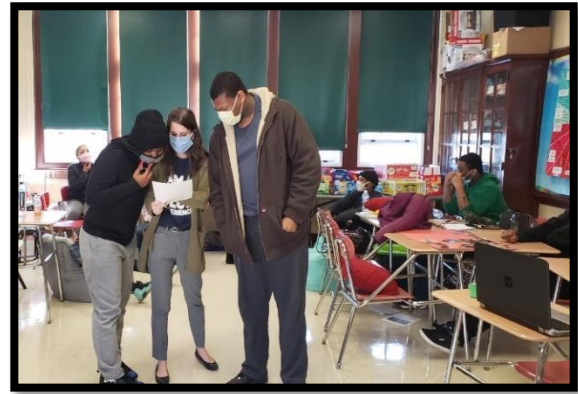
2020-2021 School Year - Accomplishments and Recognitions

- Be Great had a total of 65 active in-person and virtual members enrolled in the program by the end of the 2020-2021 school year. The 2020-2021 academic year, BE GREAT! Graduate program at Roosevelt High School had challenges including, but not limited to the COVID Pandemic with attendance, member & parent engagement, and motivation. Be Great staff worked collaboratively with the school administrator, as we began to implement retention methods including; home visits both in person & virtual, extended tutoring hours, and collaborations with members and teachers.
- Jan. 11, 2021 Roosevelt High School returned to in-person learning. RHS made returning preparation for 120 students to attend in-person learning. By the end of the school year, the building average 65-70 students attending in person learning daily. RHS followed a hybrid schedule for second semester. They had half of the students come on Monday/Tuesday and the other half come Wednesday/Thursday, and Friday in virtual programming.
- BGC staff worked diligently and hard in preparation for in-person programming. Staff had the opportunity to explain which BGCA programs would be offered and scheduled for the semester based on member's interest. The goal for virtual programming was to increase members to log on for afterschool and work consistency to engage members.
- The month of May BGRHS were quite busy with the end of the year festivities. We planned the ultimate celebration for our members at Incredible Pizza, RHS sponsored their annual Day of Love, and Senior Graduation at Busch Stadium. The RHS staff was very kind & welcoming to allow the BGC staff assist in planning and preparation for RHS Day of Love and Senior Graduation. RHS selected Mr. Deondra, as one of the official photographers for the RHS Day of Love & Graduation.
- (75%) 49 members and other youth served completing UPS Road Code; which exceeded our goal of 40 members & other youth served!!
- (10) BE GREAT! RHS members were selected to receive a \$120 shopping spree to Academy Sports sponsored by Cricket Wireless.
- The Smart Girls and Passport to Manhood groups had a successful kitchen cook-off competition!



2020-2021 School Year - Member Support Services

- Weekly data collected on attendance, behavior, course grades, and met with staff on members' progress 50% or 33 BGRHS members set personal goals, received 1:1 mentoring, assigned a tier risk category, and received social work intervention;
- Through our referral program BGRHS has received 35 referrals; 42% of BGRHS referrals were active members who attend in-person or virtual programming;
- 21% of BGRHS members completed a community services project;
- BGRHS staff have made over 450 wellness check-in and 1:1 session calls for the 2020-2021 school year;
- BGRHS provided a total of 1,015, 1:1 mentoring sessions in-person for the 2020-2021 school year
- Felicia P. was the BGRHS 2020-2021 site level Youth of the Year!!
- BGRHS celebrated Member of the Month from September 2020 – April 2021: Leandra W. (Sept.), Kyla E. (Oct.), Amber R. (Nov.), Zhariah D. (Dec), Tyla A. (Jan.), Alexa B. (Feb.), Felicia P. (March), Paul C. (Apr.)



2020-2021 School Year - Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) Survey Data

Be Great! utilizes the tier support system ranging from 1 to 3. Members assessed on the Tier 3 level, very high risk are assigned to the Social Worker, which is determined by the SDQ. The Social Worker works in individual and group settings. Members assessed at Tier 1 and Tier 2 level, which is low to moderate risk are assigned to a Youth Development Professional (YDP).

The social worker maintained a caseload of members to provide one-on-one counseling, emotional/social support and case management. Support was provided to other members as needed throughout the school year. A total of 132, 1:1 session with the social worker for Tier 3 members. These members required weekly contact to support and address invention goals.

Pre Survey Data

- Initial SDQs done with active members: 47
- Tier 1 Members: 30
- Tier 2 Members: 9
- Tier 3 Members: 8

Post Survey Data

- Follow-up SDQs done with active members: 15
- Tier 1 Members: 8
- Tier 2 Members: 4
- Tier 3 Members: 3

Of the members that completed post surveys, 4 had increased scores, 8 maintained their original scores, and 3 decreased their scores. The members who maintained their original scores includes a student who scored as Tier 2 in October, Tier 3 in January, and Tier 2 again in May. Of the students who scored as Tier 3 on their initial SDQ, all 3 members decreased their score to either a Tier 1 or 2 on the follow-up SDQ.

The 2020-2021 school year has had its share of challenges and uncertainty. However, with much determination and dedication, the BE GREAT team made significant strides with our members, finishing out the school year strong and successful; despite & in spite much adversity. The BGRHS team focused our energy and attention navigating our members through truly unprecedented times. The pandemic slowed the world down, but it did not stop the perseverance and resilience; our staff and members displayed this year!

The end of the year celebration, BGRHS staff came up with Be Great! Member Superlatives and awarded each member for their uniqueness within the Boys & Girls Club. BGNHS members were awarded, Life of the Party, Most Athletic, Most

Improved, Most Likely to Succeed, Most Unforgettable, Most Unique, and Best Dressed just to mention a few. BGRHS members and staff celebrated by providing recognition, food and fun games.

This year's St. Louis Public School District held all High School Graduation ceremonies at St. Louis Cardinals Busch Stadium. The graduation was absolutely beautiful and definitely a moment that will go down in history. Senior Graduation, we had 4 of 10 seniors to participate in the actual ceremony. Out of the 10 seniors, all but 2 completed high school on time, with a diploma. All graduation seniors have discussed their post-graduation plans as followed: (5) Workforce (3) College Bound. BGRHS only had 2 seniors who will attend summer school to recover credits to graduate. **Since the start of Roosevelt High School, BE GREAT! GRADUATE in 2016-2021 BGC have supported, mentored and successfully graduated 101 seniors.**



ST. LOUIS INTERSHIP PROGRAM (SLIP)

SLIP has 67 interns placed right now (we had 6 to decline internships). Internships began on Monday, June 21st and will conclude on Friday, August 13th. Interns rate of pay is \$11/hour full-time for 8 weeks. See the list of employers below:

SLIP Employers

ACLU of Missouri Foundation
Anders CPAs + Advisors
BGCSTL: Green Team
BGCSTL: Music Studio
BGCSTL: Teen Film Director
BGCSTL: Teen Tech Assistant
BJC Healthcare School Outreach and Youth Development
Brown & Crouppen
Brown Smith Wallace LLP
Center of Creative Arts (COCA)
Cushman & Wakefield
Emerson
Employment Connection
Gateway Global Data Logistics
Greensfelder, Hemker, & Gale
Karah Academy of Dance
L. Keeley Companies
License Collector's Office, City of St. Louis
Mathews-Dickey Boys & Girls Club
Metropolitan St Louis Sewer District
Northside Youth & Senior Service Center
S. M. Wilson & Co.
Sapper Consulting
SLIP Virtual Healthcare
St. Louis Housing Authority
St. Louis Internship Program
The Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis
The Little Bit Foundation
The Resource Group
United States Armed Services
Washington University School of Law

The Pre-Internship Component (PIC) will begin on July 6 and go through August 6th. This was relaunched for 9th graders (2020-2021 school year) for 30 students. They earn a \$500 stipend. In partnership with Students Using Intellect to Soar (SUITS) and Maryville University of St. Louis, the St. Louis Internship Program (SLIP) is hosting the Pre-Internship

Component (PIC), a five-week developmental program that offers 9th grade members at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis (BGCSTL) skills training that will help expand their personal growth, professional development, and post-secondary and career opportunities.

During this five-week development program, members will engage in workshops, seminars, and activities with a spotlight on healthcare, IT, financial advising, cybersecurity, and law/government. The program will culminate with a presentation from members related to one of the above mentioned industries and with elements from the topics below incorporated within.

The program will run Monday-Thursday from 9:00am-12:00pm. At the completion of the program members will be awarded a \$500 stipend for participation in the program.

The Career Accelerators Pathway (CAP) is our partnership *between STL Youth Jobs and the St. Louis Internship Program* for our 18 and older alumni. We have 31 students who began working on June 14th and they will conclude by July 31st. The CAP program is a more extensive work history need an opportunity to build upon past experience and expand their skills within a structured work environment that relates to their field of interest. These types of opportunities can help prepare youth for postsecondary education or occupational training, improve their professional networks, and start them on a career path.

We are piloting CAP to build upon both organizations' effective approaches to youth employment by providing qualifying alumni with an opportunity to build upon their existing skills and accelerate their pursuit of postsecondary and career success. At the same time, the St. Louis business community will have access to a diverse and skilled labor pool of local talent.

CAP will provides high-achieving young adults with extensive pre-employment training, as well as six-week paid professional internships with leading corporations, businesses and nonprofits. Through these professional internships, CAP participants will be exposed to careers, mentorship, and professional development opportunities not typically accessible to youth in the St. Louis region. See the list of employers below:

CAP Employers (partnership with STL Youth Jobs)

BioSTL
Boys Hope Girls Hope
Brandin Vaughn Collection
Explore St. Louis - Meet STL
Hats & Ladders
Inhabit Properties
It's A Gamble, LLC DBA Purposed Productions
Julian Jewels
Kairos Academies
Lindenwood University
MICA Project
NSBE-AE St. Louis Metro Gateway
Rebundle
Saint Louis Story Stitchers Artists Collective
SSM Health - Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital
SSM St. Mary's Hospital
St. Louis Prosecuting Attorney's Office
SteadyMD
St. Louis Community College

BETHALTO PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

KEYSTONE & TORCH CLUB

Keystone & Torch Club (ages 11-18) have been working on constructing, filling, and organizing a community food pantry. As a group they decided that the community would benefit from a free food resource. To begin, they put together the shed and inserted shelves. Then, they spread the word and soon enough they received food donations. They took inventory of their incoming and outgoing food. Now, they are planning events to obtain more food for the food pantry. This project has required our members to collaborate, assess community needs, use creativity to advertise, and use organizational skills to inventory and display items.

Dakota M, age 16: *"I'm just happy. If we can get food to at least one person then this program is a success."*

STEM

Our middle and high school students (ages 11-18) participated in a STEM program offered through SIUE. In this program, members learned about forensic science. They had to use their investigative skills to solve a few mysteries. They examined their bite impressions and learned how investigators use this while investigating crimes. Furthermore, they studied and experimented with the pH scale. They tested different liquids to determine their pH and attempted to get them back to neutral.

Izak J, age 13: *"It was really cool getting to mix together the different liquids and see what would happen."*

Project Learn

The Arch Acres Petting Zoo brought a trailer full of farm animals for our members (ages 6-16) to learn about. They brought roosters, an albino bunny, a duck, a hen, a turtle, goats, a sheep, and an alpaca. Members asked A LOT of questions! They learned how to properly handle the animals, what their habitats were like, daily habits of each animal, the proper transportation of the animals, and so much more!

Chanz, age 14: *"Petting and learning about the animals was exhilarating! And the duck was speaking Morris code.. But we can't get into that."*

Positive Action – BGCSTL organizational collaboration

Bethalto members spent a week with BGCSTL Club staff (Roxanne Crawford, Angelia Paul and Stephanie Prechard) learning all about healthy lifestyles. Positive Action is widely recognized as an evidence-based model by agencies that include the U.S. Department of Education's What Works Clearinghouse, SAMHSA's National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices (NREPP), and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). The program's holistic approach has also been proven to reduce behaviors such as bullying, disciplinary referrals and suspensions while improving test scores, pro-social behavior and employability.

Positive Action is built upon the intuitive philosophy that we feel good about ourselves when we do positive actions. This holistic, grade-level curriculum is based on the "Thoughts-Actions-Feelings Circle" that shows how thoughts lead to actions, actions lead to feelings about yourself, and feelings lead to more thoughts. When this cycle is positive, students are empowered toward positive and healthy decision-making.

This week Bethalto members learned the qualities of healthy relationships, how to be a good friend, how to manage and relieve stress, ways to keep their bodies healthy through diet and exercise, exploring positive self-image. Members stayed engaged through various activities such as; creating calming jars, doing scratch art.

Triple Play: Daily Challenge

This week's skill is kicking. Members are learning how to properly kick a ball. Depending on their level and previous knowledge, members are learning accuracy, power, and proper technique. Some activities members are participating in are competitive, but most are centered around building confidence and reaching personal goals.

LOVEJOY SITE

Lovejoy received late permission to operate this summer. The Club staff have been working to get members enrolled as summer school began June 7th and the district is only allowing members who attend summer school to remain in the building for our afternoon programming.

STAFF TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Annually, BGCSTL supports the Programs and Operations team by conducting Summer Staff Development the week prior to the start of camp. This year, during the week of June 7, 2021, BGCSTL staff, including Mathews-Dickey and Bethalto, reported to their sites to participate in a week of virtual training and professional development designed to introduce new skills, build upon existing skills, improve processes, and increase understanding. We strategically offered a variety of sessions designed to equip staff with information and tools that would build their confidence and set the stage for them to execute their summer plans. This week also serves as an opportunity for staff to engage with one another, build bonds, and reenergize to enter into summer camp with the enthusiasm required to ensure a successful summer.

Staff were encouraged by words from Board Chair, Mark Bulanda, who joined them to share a message of board support and confidence in their work, it's belief in our shared mission, and highlighted board efforts to uplift and secure resources in support of our work.

BGCSTL thanked staff for all of their hard work by offering three staff appreciation lunches during the week which were enjoyed by all at their individual sites. Training offerings are listed below:

Human Resources & Safety Trainings

Topic: Playbook Updates and Review

First Aid & CPR

Green Team Training

A.L.I.C.E. Safety Training

HR Hour

BGCA Leadership Development – Managers Track

The Leadership Challenge

InsideOut Coaching

Program Implementation Trainings

Program Supervision

Surveying Success

Trauma Awareness Training

Passport to Manhood - Strategies for Success

Restorative and Expressive Arts

Community Partnerships, Transferable Skills, and Program Enhancements

Girls In The Know

Shine the Light on Depression

Hopeful Minds

Motivational Interviewing