

~Boys & Girls Club~  
Of Poplar Grove

**ORGANIZATIONAL DESCRIPTION**

**Mission:**

The Boys & Girls Club of Poplar Grove (BGCPG) mission is to enable all young people, especially those of low to moderate income, to reach their full potential as productive, caring and responsible citizens. Our vision is to provide the youth of Poplar Grove IL with a safe place to:

- learn and grow,
- nurture ongoing relationships with caring, adult professionals,
- experience life-enhancing programs which promotes character development; and also provide hope and opportunity to achieve life goals.

**Vision (2-3 year):**

To service youth from 6 – 18 years of age in the community, by participating in our programs and services, achieve academic success, develop good character and citizenship, and practice healthy lifestyles.

**History:**

“Character development had been the cornerstone of the Boys & Girls Club experience since the first club opened in 1860. The first Club professional, John Collins, devised a system of informal guidance to attract boys into the Club, capture their interest, improve their behavior and increase their personal expectations and goals. The procedures Collins used constituted a clearly planned, socially scientific system of taking boys off the street and promoting their development towards a successful, productive future. This system formed the basis of the Boys & Girls Club environment. It is still in use today with proven results. Boys & Girls Club of America believes that character development, and the basic building block in personal development, should be an integral aspect of every Club program and activity.” (<http://www.bgca.org>)

The BGCPG programming would center on five (5) core areas:

- *Education and Career Development* - Enables members to become proficient in basic educational disciplines, apply learning to everyday situations, and embrace technology as a means of enhancing career prospects, through-programs such as "Power Hour" (homework assistance) and individual tutoring. Teen programs such as "Career Launch" and "Money Matters" provide much needed support and advice for those members who are getting close to joining the workforce.
- *Character & Leadership Development* - Empowers youth to support and influence their Club and community, sustain meaningful relationships with others, develop a positive self-image, participate in the democratic process, and respect their own and other's cultural identities. This is accomplished through programs like "Youth of the Month", where members are selected each month for outstanding performance as an individual, embodying the virtues for which the BGCPG stands for. Teen Leadership Clubs also provide opportunities for young adults to work as a group to assist and help inside and outside the club environment.



- *Health & Life Skills* - Develops club member's capacity to set personal goals and develop the capability to live successfully as self-sufficient adults. "SMART" Moves is one example of a preventive program that helps young people make healthy choices when faced with the temptations connected with alcohol, drugs, and gang membership. Gender based Life Skills programming would also offered through "Passport to Manhood" and "Smart Girls"
- *The Arts* - Enables youth to develop their creativity and cultural awareness through self-knowledge and appreciation of visual and tactile arts and crafts, performing arts, and creative writing. As well as engaging club members in traditional arts.
- *Sports, Fitness & Recreation* - Develops fitness, positive use of leisure time, skills for stress management, appreciation for the environment, and social and interpersonal skills. "Triple Play" Daily Challenges would give club members an opportunity to play, exercise, and have fun. Members are also encouraged to participate in group activities such as Dodgeball, Tag Games, and Relays where they not only have fun but also stay active. Finally, forming community partnerships to give members the opportunity to receive other free services throughout the year.

#### **Organizational Goals and Objectives:**

- **Obtain a Facility, Transportation, & Staff** - Obtain the use of a club facility in Poplar Grove IL and equip it with adequate staffing and transportation.
- **Volunteer Process** - Develop and Implement a Volunteer Process to select, orient, prepare, and assign volunteers.
- **Funding and Stewardship Program** - Develop a multi-faceted, ongoing annual process, to raise adequate funds for operations, special needs, and capital considerations. This would also include the development of an effective PR process before, during and after each campaign. In addition, develop a creative and effective process for communicating with and thanking each donor, in a timely manner throughout the year, so as to maintain a current donor base while seeking out new opportunities for financial support.
- **Teen Programming & Retention** - Create a process to attract, retain, and increase teen and pre-teen membership and participation through the development of innovative and current, facilities, programming, and events.
- **Board Development** - Develop a process to select, orient, and train members of the community, as Board Members, to be effective in the governance, sustainability, and ongoing leadership of The Boys & Girls Club of Poplar Grove IL.

The Boys & Girls Club of Poplar Grove would be the only facility of its kind in Northern Boone County and would have several characteristics that set itself apart from other youth serving organizations. Membership Dues would only \$20 per year per child and free memberships would be provided to any family participating in programs offered by the Housing Authority, as well as children who have Parents actively serving in the military. The facilities would be neighborhood based, and accessible for families throughout the North Boone Community School District 200. One 7 passenger shuttle/SUV would be used to provide free transportation for some students whose parents are unable to take them. Programming is diverse, giving children the

opportunity to freely participate in activities that provide Health & Fitness Education, Homework Support, Creative Art & Drama Opportunities, Character Education, and also Service Learning Projects.

2012 -2013 Demographic Data indicates that the North Boone Community School District 200, which includes the Poplar Grove community has:

- 1,652 students (6 schools)
- 664 were low income
- 41% receive free/reduced lunch
- 880 male
- 826 female
- 1,210 white
- 392 Hispanic
- 30 Black
- 12 other

**Financials:**

According to Walter Graffen, Boys and Girls Director of Organization and Development, the yearly sustainability cost for a community of our size is approximately \$120,000 to \$150,000. The approximate cost to establish a Boys and Girls Club and become an extension of the Rockford Branch is \$150,000. A meeting will be scheduled to further discuss the exact breakdown of said operating cost. Also, a meeting will be scheduled with Clifford Stoner, Chief Executive Officer of the Rockford Chapter, in order to form a fundraising plan. Based on the large percentage of students within the North Boone Community School District 200 currently receiving free or reduced lunch (41%), the community may qualify for a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant Award which is paid out over a five year period, however, the community would need to be able to sustain the club once that five year period has expired. Currently, there are no awards being made for the 2013-2014 school year, however, it is scheduled to reopen for the 2014-2015 school year.