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2015 Community Impact Report

Española YMCA Teen Center

The Española YMCA Teen Center

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2015 Española YMCA Teen Center Community Impact Report

Demographics

The YMCA's Española Teen Center is open to all youth ages 12 to 19. The Center offers educational and recreational resources to the entire sixth grade, middle and high school population, a target audience of 2,143 according to 2014-15 state enrollment reports. However, as known through Center registration and attendance records, in 2015 we primarily served 7th-10th grade students in traditional and/or charter, non-private school for a potential reach of 1,292.

In 2015, the Center served 249 members and an additional 463 youth who attended as visitors, for a total reach of 712 youth served, or 33% of the 6th -12th grade population. Approximately 40% were in high school, 50% were in middle school and 10% were in sixth grade. Membership is at a ratio of 55 percent male and 45 percent female.

Breakdowns in ethnicity of members and visitors are: 75 percent native Hispanic only; 15 percent Mexican immigrant, 5 percent Native Americans; and 5 percent mixed race/other/Caucasian.

The **mission** of the Center is to strengthen community teens through educational support and character development programming.

Service Delivery Highlights

Teen Center Members Demeanor Change: Teens engage in community projects and advocate for the Teen Center when asked if it has made a difference in their lives. Staff members are welcoming and take sincere interest in the lives of members and visitors alike, as well as their families. It takes no time at all for new teen members to find their place within the Y family, and our veteran members continue to invite others to come and be a part of the Y family and are welcoming and helpful to visitors and new members.

2015 Teen Center Program Delivery:

- 712 youth served in 2015
- Revealed a satisfaction survey of 59 students grading the Center a 3.8 on a 4.0 scale
- Recorded visits by members and guests totaling 10,607 in 247 open operating days
- Averaged 43 teens per day with peak days of 75 youth attending
- Held classes in 19 program categories delivering 830 hours of life skills instruction to our youth
- In 172 school days, our van transported an average of 24 teens daily, from Carlos Vigil Middle School and the Española Valley High School.

2015 Breakdown of classes with non-duplicate youth listed first, total gross second:

- 182 hours of Tutoring/Study Hour utilized by 41 non-duplicate youth; 276 gross
- 6 Woodworking classes: 31 non-duplicate youth; 29 gross
- 11 Baking/Cooking Classes: 87 non-duplicate youth; 171 gross
- 7 Holiday/Special Meals: 262 non-duplicated youth; 374 gross
- 39 Movie Afternoons: 91 non-duplicated youth; 192 gross
- 9 Field Trips: 80 non-duplicate youth; 110 gross
- 6 Informative talk/presentation: 147 non-duplicate youth; 147 gross
- 14 Community Participation events: 136 non-duplicate youth; 314 gross
- 4 Community Service events: 37 non-duplicate youth; 53 gross
- 4 Impact of Drugs presentations: 66 non-duplicated youth; 565 gross
- 112 Health/Sports Group and Recreation classes: 261 non-duplicated youth; 839 gross
- 4 Art classes: 15 non-duplicated youth; 17 gross
- 1 Fundraising event: 25 non-duplicated youth; 136 gross
- 14 Tae Kwon Do classes: 9 non-duplicated youth; 97 gross
- 96 Summer Food Program: 235 non-duplicated youth; 1,804 gross
- 22 Audio/Recording Studio classes: 42 non-duplicated youth; 90 gross
- 9 Bike Repair classes: 17 non-duplicated youth; 30 gross
- 8 Intro to Crochet Classes: 13 non-duplicated youth; 26 gross
- 25 Science based classes: 17 non-duplicated youth; 142 gross

Goals and Activities

The Center uses educational and recreational offerings and its computer center with 15 computers to further our goals: 1) to create a vibrant, safe, attractive, viable youth outreach center, serving as a point of gang intervention and substance abuse prevention, that is heavily used and considered a model program that can eventually be funded by local government; 2) to support mastery of educational benchmarks (math and literacy are identified areas of focus) through tutoring and supplemental educational programs; 3) to mentor and assist the teen population of Española and surrounding areas for continuing and higher education; 4) to mentor and encourage compassion, caring, respect and responsibility in the teen population; and 5) to foster healthy lifestyle choices.

The Center pursues three specific activities for these goals. The first service is that of educational support. We provided a tutor for homework assistance four days out of the week and have supported youth in reaching their educational benchmarks. Multi-year funding is needed to continue this service and to fund outreach/mentoring staff. Our Robotics Class continues with its' achievements. In 2015, Team Intergalactic participated for the second year in the annual RoboRALLY held at Northern New Mexico University. Competition is not part of this event, but it does provide an opportunity for the team to prepare for RoboRAVE International in Albuquerque, which is a competition. Team Intergalactic performed at their best, the Aerial Response team took Third Place. This is the First year for the Aerial competition and had plenty of competitors from around the world. We are so proud of the team and wish them continued success. We appreciate all the continued support and donations we receive for the purchase of robots, supplies, travel and competition expenses. Collaboration between the Teen Center and Access New Mexico continues. They hold GED classes in our computer lab every Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. This collaboration provides an opportunity for teens to work towards their GED and onto higher education, for a better future. In 2015, we were the Day Reporting site for our area. Day Reporting gives teens who are involved in the court system an opportunity to receive assistance from our instructor and instructor's assistant to complete homework assignments, do credit recovery, and avoid falling behind in school due to suspensions, court dates and other situations preventing them from being in a traditional school setting. We continue to search for opportunities to provide our teens a chance at an education, no matter what their situation may be; as education is the key to unlock their future.

The second activity provided is that of service learning, community engagement and career advisement. Teens are encouraged to engage in diverse dialogue and participate in activities that challenge their thinking and various thought processes. Teens and family members continue advocating for the Center and its' programs. We participated in a variety of community projects which included, organize and participate in our Fifth Annual Harvest Youth Parade; we helped beautify the community by collecting trash for the Española Clean-up Day; we helped build mini-libraries in collaboration with the Teen Alliance Co-Operative, to be placed in low-income areas, this made books easily available to those who might not be able to visit the library as often; participated in the Española Christmas Parade; participated in the Walk Against Drugs and the Anti-Bullying Walk; collaborated with New Hope Church to host a Lowrider Car and Bike Show; attended and participated in the annual Anti-Drug Summit; welcomed the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish to instruct an ATV safety class and offer the teens an opportunity to try what they learned on their simulator; and our Third Annual "Warming Young Hearts" giving project. We prepared and hand-delivered eighty-nine stockings filled with "warm" goodies to the children at the Pajarito Housing Community. This project has become a tradition, not only for us, but for the children that stand in their front yards, anticipating our arrival. The smiles on their faces and thank yous make the cold, winter night feel warmer. We encourage our teens who are eligible to work to take the opportunity and apply for jobs. We want them to learn responsibility, learning how to budget and receive the experience of working hard and being rewarded. Fortunately, The Family YMCA once again received a grant to make summer jobs available through the YCC. The teens have an advantage, the job opportunity is right here at the Y. Teens receive hands-on experience filling out job applications and we assist with interview skills in an effort to better prepare them for the job market.

The third activity that the YMCA provides in pursuit of our goals is that of character development. The Family YMCA exists to build the whole individual, including his/her character. Our staff members are role models and continuously stress our core values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility in all programming and interactions. We uphold this standard and expect the same from participants. Studies have shown that people are hard-wired to connect, so we provide an opportunity for teens to associate with others and build relationships in the process. The Center provides this opportunity in a positive and safe environment. All of our programming is aimed at developing a sense of purpose and hopefulness in youth in regards to their own skills and abilities to positively impact change.

Methodologies used to deliver these services are positive role modeling, community service and field trip incentives. Teens respond favorably to requests for participation because of the positive relationships they have with staff.

Collaborations/Networking

City of Española: 2007–present, operating contract to run center, now providing \$50K/year toward support.

Con Alma Health Foundation: \$15K for health activities 2013–2015; \$20K for 2012–13, multiple year past support.

Cross Connection, Inc.: \$5K in 2015 for enrichment programming; \$35K in 2014 for healthy, enrichment programs for teens.

Los Alamos Medical Center: \$1000 annual, multiple year program partner.

Los Alamos National Laboratory, Community Programs Office: 2013–2015, providing \$2,250 for tutoring and robotics. In 2012, awarded \$5,000 for tutor services, greenhouse and microbiology programs. In 2010 awarded \$6,500 for court improvements. LANL originally provided facility structure to city in 2000.

MAR Tech Services: \$5K in 2015 for enrichment programming; \$15K in 2014 for life skills classes, program and operational support.

New Mexico Community Foundation, Pojoaque Valley Fund: Programmatic support since 2009 from \$2.5–\$1K annually.

New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps Commission: 2009 to present, grants of \$150K plus in support of job programs that hire Espanola and Los Alamos youth for public work for community good. Award requires collaboration with **Los Alamos County; Santa Fe National Forest; Los Alamos Juvenile Justice Advisory Board, Volunteer Task Force.**

Rio Arriba County: In 2014–2015, providing about \$37K toward target programs under contract for services. Since 2012 onward, RAC has provided \$15K for operations; in 2011, gave \$10K targeted to programs in partnership with RAJJAB and DWI Council.

Santa Fe Community Foundation: 2014 awarded \$15K for healthy programs for teens.

Santa Fe County: \$15K–\$20K in 2014–15 for enrichment programs for Santa Fe County youth; partner since 2013.

Santa Fe Presbytery, Mission in The North: In 2013, awarded \$5K for sculptural welding, in 2012 awarded \$5k for audio engineering program.

State Farm Good Citizen Award: 2013 funding of \$20K for life skills classes, and \$4K in 2014.

The Frost Foundation, LTD.: 2013–2014 funding of \$10K for youth programs.

United Way of Northern New Mexico: In 2014 and 2015 provided \$25K; multiple past year partner.

YMCA of the USA: 2014 provided \$4K toward capacity building.

Collaborate with and/or received donations in 2015:

City of Española; Rio Arriba County; Rio Arriba County Youth Service Providers (director is a council member); Rio Arriba Community Health Council (director is council member); Santa Fe County; Northern New Mexico University; El Centro Family Health; Valle del Sol; Agave Behavioral Health; La Vision del Valle Coalition–Hands Across Cultures; Rio Arriba County Teen Drug Court; R.A.C.S.T.O.P.(director is a council member); Rio Arriba County Juvenile Community Corrections; Rio Arriba Drug Free Communities Programs; State of New Mexico Juvenile Probation Services; Española Public Schools; Northern New Mexico Regional Arts Center; Region III Drug Implementation Team (director is a team committee member); Rio Arriba County Joint Task Force (director is a council member); Pojoaque Valley Fund; New Mexico Community Foundation; Northern New Mexico Walk Against Drugs; Anti-Bullying Walk; City of Española Teen Court; Lowe’s Home Improvement; Santa Fe Civic Housing Authority; Lighthouse Church; La Tierra Montessori School; LANL Community Programs Office; Inquiry Facilitators (RoboRAVE International); Access New Mexico; T.A.C.O. (Teen Alliance CO-Operative); Dream Tree Project in Taos; PMI (Performance Maintenance Incorporated); Santa Fe Mountain Center; New Mexico Department of Game and Fish; New Hope Family Worship; New Mexico State Police; Rio Arriba County Sheriff’s Department; City of Española Police Department; City of Española Fire Department; New Mexico Healthy Transitions; Valley View United Methodist Church.