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# HELPING YOUTH THRIVE

## 2016 Community Impact Report

# Española YMCA Teen Center

### **The Española YMCA Teen Center**

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## 2016 Española YMCA Teen Center Community Impact Report

### Demographics

The Española YMCA Teen Center is open to all youth ages 12 to 19. The Teen Center offers educational and recreational resources to the entire sixth grade, middle and high school population, a target audience of 2,167 according to 2015-16 state enrollment reports. However, as known through Center registration and attendance records, in 2016 we primarily served 7th-10th grade students in traditional and/or charter, non-private school for a potential reach of 1,812.

In 2016, the Center served 233 members and an additional 368 youth who attended regularly without turning in paperwork as visitors, for a total reach of 601 youth served, or 28% of the 6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade population. Approximately 45% were in high school, 50% were in middle school and 5% 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 if the Y family and are welcoming and helpful to visitors and new members.

### 2016 Teen Center Program Delivery:

- 601 youth served in 2016
- Revealed a satisfaction survey of 33 students grading the Center a 3.8 on a 4.0 scale
- Recorded visits by members and guests totaling 8,319 in 249 open operating days
- Averaged 33 teens per day with peak days of 68 youth attending
- Held classes in 17 program categories delivering 692 hours of life skills instruction to our youth
- In 182 school days, our van transported an average of 19 teens daily, from Carlos Vigil Middle School and the Española Valley High School.

## **2016 Breakdown of classes with non-duplicate youth listed first, total gross second:**

- 182 hours of Tutoring/Study Hour utilized by 38 non-duplicate youth; 167 gross
- 6 Woodworking classes: 10 non-duplicate youth; 23 gross
- 13 Baking/Cooking Classes: 80 non-duplicate youth; 174 gross
- 7 Holiday/Special Meals: 215 non-duplicated youth; 218 gross
- 43 Movie Afternoons: 77 non-duplicated youth; 198 gross
- 4 Field Trips: 25 non-duplicate youth; 38 gross
- 6 Informative talk/presentation: 77 non-duplicate youth; 77 gross
- 15 Community Participation events: 364 non-duplicate youth; 380 gross
- 2 Community Service events: 19 non-duplicate youth; 28 gross
- 3 Impact of Drugs presentations: 49 non-duplicated youth; 59 gross
- 96 Health/Sports Group and Recreation classes: 194 non-duplicated youth; 669 gross
- 3 Art classes: 23 non-duplicated youth; 25 gross
- 1 Leadership class: 15 non-duplicated youth; 15 gross
- 70 Tae Kwon Do classes: 18 non-duplicated youth; 386 gross
- 84 Summer Food Program: 171 non-duplicated youth; 1,059 gross
- 13 Audio/Recording Studio classes: 24 non-duplicated youth; 64 gross
- 27 Science based classes: 32 non-duplicated youth; 107 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 2016, Team Intergalactic participated for the third year in the annual RoboRALLY held at Northern New Mexico College. Although, competition is not part of this event, 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 a-MAZE-ing Challenge team took Second Place. Throughout the years, the team has gained support and has been the recipient of donations for the purchase of robots, supplies, travel and competition expenses. Collaboration between the Teen Center and Access New Mexico continues to provide the opportunity for young people to work toward receiving their GED. They hold classes in our computer lab on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. We are proud to announce that two of our members were among the first graduating class. Our tutoring and support systems are in place for teens who are studying for their GEDs, regardless if they are attending the Access program or enrolled elsewhere. We had two of our members receive their GED from Northern New Mexico College. We continuously look for opportunities for the teens to participate in educational projects, in 2016 we provided the opportunity for teens to participate on the Future City project. Our Teen Center Director was chosen to attend a NASA training in Florida in September. Since, his return he has done various presentations educating our young people in regards to the launching of OSIRIS-REx and its mission in space. Our teens were the first recipients of this presentation. We were the Day Reporting site for our area from January to June. 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 to participate in activities that challenge their thinking and various thought processes. The year 2016 provided an opportunity for participation in a variety of community projects. We planned and organized our Sixth Annual Harvest Youth Parade; we provided an opportunity to attend Y Day at the New Mexico Legislature, this allows the teens to witness first-hand how our government works; we collaborated with Las Cumbres Community Services and New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department to host a Child Abuse Prevention event; we participated in the 6PAC Conference; we participated in the Walk Against Drugs; teens were able to attend City of Española Council meetings and Rio Arriba County Commissioners meetings; teens benefitted from a presentation in regards to the dangers of underage drinking; our robotics team, Team Intergalactic was invited to the Leadership Summit, to demonstrate their robots; they were invited to meet with Congressman Ben Ray Lujan, Senator Martin Heinrich and National Science Foundation Director, Dr. France A Cordova to showcase their robots and discuss STEM opportunities; the team was honored to meet and spend time with Dr. Roger Wiens, ChemCam/SuperCam principal investigator of the Mars Rover; we hosted a Community Leaders Open House; we hosted our annual Thanksgiving dinner; we participated in the Twentieth Annual Española Christmas Parade; we organized, prepared and delivered over a hundred stockings for our Fourth Annual "Warming Young Hearts" giving project. We prepared and hand-delivered the stockings filled with "warm" goodies to the children at the Pajarito Housing Community. We would like to thank the teens from the Mountain Center's Healthy Transitions program, who came and helped prepare and deliver stockings and one of the young men was Santa this year. The teens' favorite part is seeing the children waiting for our visit and of course Santa's. This project allows our teens to experience the gift of giving. It allows their self-less side to show through and do for others without expecting anything in return. We provide opportunities for our teens to volunteer during Teen Center events and community events to provide them with the experience for future job opportunities. We assist in resume writing and filling out job applications, interview skills, job searching, professionalism and other necessary skills to gain and keep employment. A budgeting class allowed teens to see how they can save for tomorrow, pay their bills and still have a money to spend on themselves. We want them to become responsible, contributing members of society.

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 long-lasting 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/Donors

**Anonymous:** 2016 gift of \$5,000.00 from family estate.

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

**Clothes Helping Kids, Inc.:** 2016 support of \$5K for enriching programs and tutoring.

**Con Alma Health Foundation:** \$13.5K in 2017; \$15K for health activities 2013-2015; \$20K for 2012-13, multiple year past support.

**Cross Connection, Inc.:** \$5K in 2016, 2015 for enrichment programming; \$35K in 2014 for healthy, enrichment programs for teens.

**ENSTAR:** 2016 gift of \$5K to support improvements at EYTC, operational support, as well as support for the Arts program.

**Española Presbyterian Hospital:** 2016 to present, supports annual Harvest Parade by providing food and drinks for all participants; provided snacks, fruit, warm meals and on occasion clothing for teens; financial support to sustain EYTC operations in the community.

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

**Los Alamos National Laboratory, Community Programs Office:** Provided the initial LEGO Mindstorms Robot Kit to jumpstart the robotics program; supportive of STEM initiatives that promote higher learning; invites robotics team to participate in various opportunities to promote program as well as build self-esteem and confidence; have included EYTC in some of their marketing materials; 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.

**Los Alamos National Laboratory Foundation:** 2017 support for \$5,500.

**Lou Santoro, State Farm Insurance:** \$1K in 2016; 2017 support for \$5,000.

**MAR Tech Services:** \$5K in 2016, 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 2016, 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 2016 \$15K; 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:** \$10K in 2016; \$15K-\$20K in 2014-15 for enrichment programs for Santa Fe County youth; partner since 2013.

**Santa Fe Presbytery, Mission in The North:** \$3.5K in 2016; 2013, awarded \$5K for sculptural welding, in 2012 awarded \$5k for audio engineering program.

**State Farm Good Citizen Award:** Support of \$1K in 2016; 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 2016, 2015 and 2014 provided \$25K; multiple past year partner.

**Y Bandelier Corps:** A 2017 partnership between Bandelier National Monument (U.S National Park Service), the Los Alamos based Volunteer Task Force, the Delle Foundation, the Pajarito Trail Fest and The Family YMCA to support 9 positions for youth to learn conservation and preservation, and earn college credit, during an experiential work program for 7 weeks at Bandelier during the summer of 2017.

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

## **Collaborate/Networking:**

City of Española; Rio Arriba County; Santa Fe County; Rio Arriba Youth Service Providers (director is a council member); Rio Arriba Community Health Council (director is council member); Northern New Mexico College; El Centro Family Health; Española Presbyterian Hospital; Española Fiber Arts Center; Valle del Sol; Agave Behavioral Health; La Vision del Valle Coalition-Hands Across Cultures; Los Alamos National Laboratory Foundation (director was a panelist); City of Española Teen Drug Court; RACS.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; Lowe's Home Improvement; PMI (Performance Maintenance Incorporated); PMS (Presbyterian Medical Services); The Mountain Center; Santa Fe Civic Housing Authority; New Mexico Healthy Transitions; Lighthouse Church; La Tierra Montessori School; Los Alamos National Laboratory Community Programs Office; Inquiry Facilitators (RoboRAVE International); Access New Mexico; DreamTree Project, Taos; New Hope Family Worship Center; New Mexico State Police; Rio Arriba County Sherriff's Department; City of Española Police Department; City of Española Fire Department; Valley View United Methodist Church; Nancy Parks; Susan Herter; Kelly Myers.