

## Women's Fund El Dorado Site Visit Subcommittee Report

### **Boys & Girls Club, El Dorado County Western Slope**

On March 9, 2016 Sean McCartney, CPO/Executive Director of Boys & Girls Club, El Dorado County western slope, met with several members of the Site Visit Subcommittee for an on-site orientation of the Club's facility and programs; specifically, the Sponsor a Kid Program, which was awarded a WFED \$20,000 Focus Grant for 2015/2016.

Committee Chair Nancy Herman and members Sheila Fleege, Claudia Taylor, Dori Drake, Emogene Haller and Leslie Bush were greeted with a welcome banner made by some of the children. We were pleased to receive information folders that included personal letters and photographs from Club members. After a brief orientation of the facilities and ongoing activities, we had an informative meeting with Mr. McCartney.

The Sponsor a Child Program helps low-income children take advantage of Boys & Girls Club services by providing tools to break the cycle of poverty. These tools are in the form of healthy snacks, homework help, a computer lab, and positive adult reinforcement, such as leadership programs, art and music, sports programs, and individual mentoring. The Program is proceeding as scheduled with 27 scholarships awarded from our \$20,000 Focus Grant. Matching funds allowed 54 children overall to participate in the Club.

Our Focus Grant has already been spent through the Club's General Operating Fund, which provides staffing, rent, equipment, supplies and training to all students.

Boys & Girls Club staff is a combination of certified teachers, qualified people, college students, graduates of Boys & Girls Club, and volunteers—all of whom receive training. Mr. McCartney selects staff members according to their qualifications in dealing with students, their enthusiasm, and their dedication to the program.

Current assessment is a 6-week block evaluation. Block management and Mr. McCartney discuss the program's highlights and items needing improvement. In addition, the Sponsor a Child students are expected to achieve attendance three times a week, model good behavior and promote a positive club culture in order to maintain their scholarship status.

The Club stays in contact with the schools, working together with special needs, sharing progress reports and report cards, and consistently testing for academic learning. It also maintains professional relationships with other non-profit organizations in the county to provide better services. These relationships help with funding, cultivating mentors and staff, receiving donations, and ensuring communication with schools, children and parents.

Boys & Girls Club currently serves 180 children. When the new facility is complete in late 2016, it will be able to provide services for up to 275 children. As a group we agree that WFED funds are being used in an appropriate and very significant way, and we discussed the advantages of possible future consecutive multi-year grants for programs such as the Sponsor a Child Program.

Nancy Herman  
WFED Site Visit Subcommittee