

# Out-of-School Time Stories

## BOOST Grantee Spotlight: Boys & Girls Club of Moultrie/Colquitt County

Boys & Girls Club of Moultrie/Colquitt County helps area youth to reach their potential as productive, caring, and responsible citizens. Through a range of afterschool and summer offerings, the Club helps over 350 youth ages 5-18 develop educationally and developmentally, with the goal that they will graduate from high school with plans for the future, demonstrate good character and citizenship, and live healthy lifestyles.

**Club programs focus on education and career development, health and fitness, arts and cultural enrichment, character and leadership development, and life skills.** Club facilities include a multi-purpose room, game room, technology center, arts and crafts room, a cafeteria, and dedicated teen program space.

### BOOST Funding as Catalyst for Growth

The Club received BOOST funds through Boys & Girls Clubs of Georgia, one of four statewide organizations funded through the BOOST grant. According to Joel Jenkins, Director of Operations, support from BOOST has had a tremendous positive impact on expanding services the Club provides and the number of youth it serves. BOOST funding also served as a catalyst for strengthening collaboration with the Colquitt County Board of Education.



**Youth Served:**  
351 Annually






**Ages Served:**  
K-12

**Counties Served:**  
Moultrie, Colquitt

**Programming Offered:**  
Afterschool & Summer

#### BOOST Grant Purpose:

-  Expand access
-  Reduce barriers
-  Increase quality

**OST Government Funding Sources:**  
BOOST Grant and Out-of-School Services Program

**Website:**  
[www.bgcmoultrie.org/](http://www.bgcmoultrie.org/)

Club staff met with the local superintendent and pitched an expanded partnership in which school buses could deliver youth to the Club's four afterschool sites during their afternoon routes. As Jenkins describes, "we sat down with the district transportation director to say, 'we've got to get kids to the club.' Once we brought them on and showed them what the BOOST grant offers, they just came onboard." As Jenkins notes, **"we had the opportunity to create something with BOOST, and it came to fruition. We have a great relationship, and our Board of Education and transportation office are right there. They make sure the kids are here on time, and we can call them for anything."**

With free transportation now provided, the Club utilized BOOST funds to waive fees for all participants. **With the two significant burdens of transportation and program fees removed, youth participation more than tripled, from 105 to 351 youth. The number of teens participating leapt from 5 to 60.** The program extended its hours to 7:00 pm to accommodate working parents and caregivers.



To meet the needs of this influx of youth, the Club used BOOST funds to hire three additional staff and also bring aboard a coach who spent six months training staff how to use trauma-informed practices. Staff now use trauma-informed practices to support and nurture the children, many of whom have undergone traumatic experiences. Staff engage with children and their families to support the well-being of the youth. Parents say they are grateful for the safe and supportive environment provided for their children.

## Workforce Readiness and Life Skills

One of the Club focus areas is workforce readiness. The Club partners with the local campus of Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. Medical students come out three times a week to mentor the kids and exemplify that a career in medicine is a possibility for them. As Jenkins notes, **"the kids get a chance to job shadow the medical students, and to go out there on the campus. They go to classes and see what it is going to take to become a doctor."** It is valuable, Jenkins notes, for the kids to see people who look like them and come from similar backgrounds pursuing careers in medicine and other professional fields — "it's showing these kids that it's not your background or your environment, it's your choices."

Another Club program, Money Matters, teaches financial management to the youth, many of whom had never been to a bank. Most of the youth cannot swim, so the Club provides swim lessons. Programs have also focused on dermatology and gardening, allowing youth to find and pursue multiple interests. A visit to Albany State University expanded kids' horizons about possibilities after high school.





## Infusing Academics

Three certified teachers — supported with BOOST funds — assist youth with schoolwork. Over the past two years, many kids made dramatic improvements. According to Jenkins, “about 10-15 of the kids were failing. By the time the second year ended, they went from an F to a C.” Fiveash adds, “and out of those 10-15, 3 of them could not read. So they weren’t failing because they did not want to do the work, but because they actually could not do it. Our teachers came in and really helped them.”

La'Teegra Fiveash, Program Director, notes that some activities and assignments are designed to be taken home by the students: “We try to do things that are going to bleed over to home. For example, we give them STEM work to take home to build with their parents instead of just doing it here at the Club. The parents appreciate these parent engagement activities.”



## Youth Well-Being

As Jenkins says, **“Positive thought equals positive action, and the result will be a positive feeling. And it has been working.”** For Jenkins, Fiveash, and other staff at the Club, their work is not just a job but a calling. Fiveash asserts that impacting a child positively is the reason she comes to work. Being able to change a child’s mindset or their way of living or thinking — that is better than money to me.” Jenkins sees his young self in the students who come to the Club, and wants to be the support for them that he needed as a child — “our purpose in life is to serve one another.”





GEORGIA STATEWIDE AFTERSCHOOL NETWORK

75 Marietta Street, Suite 401  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
(404) 521-0355 | [info@afterschoolga.org](mailto:info@afterschoolga.org)  
[www.afterschoolga.org](http://www.afterschoolga.org)



@AfterschoolGA



[Facebook.com/AfterschoolGA](https://www.facebook.com/AfterschoolGA)



Building Opportunities in Out-of-School Time (BOOST) is a competitive grant program administered by the Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network (GSAN) and operated in partnership with the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE). BOOST offers \$85 million via three-year grants, renewed annually, with funding made available through the American Rescue Plan. The grants program is aimed at promoting evidence-based practices and whole child supports in afterschool and summer learning programs. BOOST is designed to expand access, reduce barriers to enrollment, and increase programmatic quality to improve outcomes for students and families throughout the state. GSAN provides recommendations for grant awards based on rigorous application criteria and offers technical assistance and training to grantees to ensure successful implementation. All grants are approved by GaDOE, ensuring alignment with statewide priorities and goals.