



# BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF CLEVELAND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING

**MISSION:** Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland help the children most in need to grow, learn, and realize their potential.

**WHAT WE FUNDED:** We provided support for club expansion and youth recruitment for the Saint Luke’s Manor and Mt. Pleasant clubs. By providing programming in three core areas—Academic Success, Character & Citizenship, and Healthy Lifestyles—Boys & Girls Clubs target the following goals for all Club youth: to graduate from high school ready for college, trade school, the military, or employment; to enter adulthood as self-sufficient individuals; to model strong character and be involved in the community; to practice healthy lifestyle choices and commit to fitness and nutrition; and to exhibit tolerance and acceptance of their own and other cultures.

**WHAT IS THE NEED?** Youth in poverty are more likely than wealthier peers to experience low educational attainment, difficulty gaining and maintaining employment, substance abuse, early sexual activity, and unplanned teen parenthood. Buckeye and Mt. Pleasant are two of Cleveland’s highest-risk urban neighborhoods. The Clubs provide a safe space and quality enrichment and recreation programs during the hours when young people are most vulnerable and most likely to engage in behavior that is damaging to themselves and their communities. Studies show that students enrolled in after-school programs demonstrate improved academic performance and school attendance, increased levels of constructive community engagement, and improved health outcomes (physical and psychological). Moreover, the research indicates that the students at greatest risk show the greatest gains.

**WHY WE FUNDED THIS WORK:** The Boys & Girls Club’s work aligns with the Foundation’s strategy to improve social conditions by addressing the need for youth development and out-of-school programming opportunities in these neighborhoods.



## A Strong Neighborhood

### Program Strategy Overview

We catalyze and sustain opportunities to improve social conditions and improve the physical environments in Mt. Pleasant, Woodland Hills and Buckeye.

### OUTCOMES:

- Regular participants in the Boys & Girls Club have made academic progress: in 2016, 96% were promoted to the next grade on time and 91% of seniors graduated.
- At Saint Luke’s Manor, membership increased by 10% and teen membership increased by 33%.

### LESSONS LEARNED:

- Giving youth a voice helps to drive successful programming and community engagement, and promotes leadership development.
- It is particularly important to focus on developing programs and activities that encourage youth to develop healthy relationships and trust among peers.
- Openness and active communication help to maintain successful working relationships with partner organizations.