Reaching Outside the Library: Providing Collections and Programs at the Boys and Girls Club of Western Nevada

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Background

The Carson City Library has been partnering with the local Boys & Girls club to provide books and programs since 2011.

Since about 2016, services have been provided with twice weekly visits by library staff, as well as occasional special programs.
Complementary Missions

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Western Nevada has as its mission to enable young people to realize their potential as citizens by giving them a safe space that provides learning and recreation. The Carson City Library also has a mission to create opportunity and inspire learning.
Building Connections

- Visited site as a group in December 2018
- Carson City location visited by 300-400 youth/day
- Only one cart of library books, available only 6 hours a week
- Shelves filled with donated books mostly not suited to the children’s needs
Brainstorming

- How can we better serve our patrons at this location?
- What resources can we use?
- Who can help?
- What do we need to know?
Building a New Collection

Goals:

Replace unsuitable or worn-out books with a full collection large enough to serve the volume of users

Select books based on age, interests, and reading level

Keep the books in a central area and provide a self checkout station so they can be used when library staff is not available
Why Weeding is Important...
Setting Up the Homework Room

Cleared most donated books to make space for new collection

BGCWN staff helped us move 10 big boxes of books to the club with their van

Then we checked everything in, put it in order, installed the self-check and put up signs
Opening Day!
Teen Area

Before:

After:
Carson Branch Anywhere Circulation

Checkouts & Renewals

2017
2018
2019
Library Programming

Occasional programming has been offered in the club space over the years, usually as part of a special project such as the Summer Learning Challenge or for grants like NASA@ My Library.
Expanding Programming

Goals:

Provide monthly programs for teens and elementary ages

Save limited staff time by modifying successful library programs and have a dedicated staff member coordinate events

Focus on STEAM programming and outreach

Make sure programming compliments but does not duplicate existing BGCWN programs
Book Art
Virtual Reality
Bookend Painting
Summer Learning Challenge

Changes in 2019:

- In addition to a special presenter, 5 additional programs were offered
- Incentives available at the club for each badge earned
- Separate grand prize raffle just for the Boys & Girls Club
- Staff more heavily promoted the program
BGCWN Program Overview

- Elementary Attendance
- Teen Attendance
- Total Attendance

Attendance by Year:
- 2017: [Value]
- 2018: [Value]
- 2019: [Value]
Summer Learning Challenge

BGCWN Summer Learning Challenge

- Elementary
- Teens
- Total Participation

2017
2018
2019
What can you do at your library?

Who are your current partners?
What other community organizations have common goals?
Who could use your library's services but isn't getting the full use of them?
What skills do your staff want to contribute?
What existing programs could be offered again in another location?
What funding or in-kind resources could be available?
Questions?

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