



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF PORTLAND METROPOLITAN AREA

BGCP TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 500: ROCKWOOD CATALYST CAMPAIGN

Tuesday, March 10, 2015

ERIN HUBERT, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland Metro

Traci laid out the reasons as to why we've been so compelled to take on this project.

There is arguably no other neighborhood in our great state that is in greater need than Rockwood and that has so many far reaching implications on our state's key performance indicators relative to academic success and public safety issues.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland serves youth from the ages of 6 to 18 in the neighborhoods that need us most. We provide enrichment wrap around services designed for impact and outcomes around academic excellence; good character and leadership traits; and healthy lifestyles.

There is currently NOTHING like this in the entire Gresham community, and particularly Rockwood, serving youth in this way.

At the moment, we operate in four Portland metro counties with six stand-alone Club sites; we are also embedded in seven schools in partnership with three school districts including Parkrose, Reynolds, and Clackamas, serving a combined 7,000+ kids per year.

Membership fees are \$5.00 per year for the youth we serve in these distressed communities, and we scholarship youth who are unable to pay the \$5.00 annual fee due to disengaged family situations.

Only about 15% of our funding comes from any sort of county, city, state, or federal funding.

Thus, we fundraise for the preponderance of our annual operating needs, which is currently about \$5.5m.

The Rockwood project is a \$13.8m campaign that will allow us to build a 30,000 square foot, state of the art new facility with a

- Full size gym
- Industrial kitchen to feed kids dinner every evening
- Enrichment teaching rooms
- Art room
- Music room
- A teen center
- And play room

This campaign will also raise three years' worth of operating funds for the new facility (a BGCA best practice requirement); create a maintenance reserve to keep the building functional and safe well into the future; and infuse money into the overall organization so that taking on this new project doesn't cannibalize our current financial stability, which was shaky coming out of the recession.

While the many issues this long-suffering community has faced were long treated as solely a Gresham problem, that has changed. Jurisdictional lines between Portland and Gresham are melting away quickly. Civic leaders; business leaders; and community leaders are recognizing that given the size and scope of this community and the woeful statistics that are worsening each year, it's time we all take notice and come up with solutions to stem the tide of spiraling statistics.

It's no longer just Gresham's problem; it's now a Portland metro and statewide concern that we all have to join together to address. That's why we're here before you today.

Thank you,

Erin Hubert