

FEATURES

Boys Club Provides Safe Haven For Boys

BY DOUGLAS B. CLARK
Staff Writer/Photographer

"The young people in today's society are all in trouble of not having a safe environment to feel secure in," said Warren Coppedge, executive director of Winston-Salem's Salvation Army Boys Club on Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive.

Before becoming the Boys Club's executive director two years ago, he was the executive assistant at the Salvation Army's Area Command Headquarters, on North Trade Street.

"We receive 75 percent of our funding from the United Way and many donations come from caring people from all over the community," said Coppedge.

"The Boys Club provides six programs for the young men. The programs include Personal Education, Cultural Enrichment, Health and Physical

Awareness, Environmental Issues, Social Recreation and Social Gatherings," said Kenneth McLeod, the center's program assistant and Social Recreation director.

Personal Education helps develop their minds academically and socially. Cultural Enrichment helps them appreciate and understand the differences and similarities of people from different countries and our own history as a race of people. Health and Physical Awareness provides information concerning positive lifestyles, nutritional values and exercising.

Environmental Issues teaches the importance of not littering, recycling and improving our ecology. Social Recreation provides organized, structured group activities like arts and crafts, reading programs and computer training. The Boys Club is currently planning its

summer camps which will run June 19 to August 18.

"I would like for us to possibly have a new building someday here in Winston-Salem," said Coppedge.

He added, "I would also like for us to help provide more community support operations like assisting with Blood Drives here at the Boys Club in conjunction with the Red Cross, assisting in health screenings with Forsyth-Stokes Reynolds Mental Health Center and assisting in voter registration with the Forsyth Board of Elections."

According to the young men who attend the Boys Club, they all enjoy the educational, physical, cultural and social activities provided for them at the club.

Seven-year-old Michael Turner, who enjoys playing basketball and playing football at the club said, "I would like to

see everyone win a whole lot of stuff for sports."

Curtis Moser, 10, says he enjoys all of the activities with his friends and especially likes participating in step-shows. "I like it when other people come to visit us and talk to us about the things that they are doing in the city," said Moser.

Cory Rawlinson, 14, who has been a member of the Boys Club for seven years, enjoys being a teen-leader.

"I enjoy the Educational Programs, Sporting Events and everything that we do here at the Club," said Rawlinson with a big smile on his face. "Some of my future plans for this summer are to get a job, go on field trips and help out here as a Junior Staffer."

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