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# **HELPING YOUTH THRIVE**

## **2014 Community Impact Report Española YMCA Teen Center**

### **The Española YMCA Teen Center**

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## 2014 Española YMCA Teen Center Community Impact Report

### Demographics

The YMCA's Española Teen Center is open to all youth ages 12 to 19. The Center offers educational and recreational resources to the entire sixth grade, middle and high school population, a target audience of 2,193 according to 2013-14 state enrollment reports. However, as known through Center registration and attendance records, in 2014 we primarily served 7th-10th grade students in traditional and/or charter, non-private school for a potential reach of 1,378.

In 2014, the Center served 237 members and an additional 428 youth who attended as visitors, for a total reach of 665 youth served, or 30% of the 6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade population. Approximately 25% were in high school, 63% were in middle school and 12% were in sixth grade. Membership is at a ratio of 55 percent male and 45 percent female.

Breakdowns in ethnicity of members and visitors are: 75 percent native Hispanic only; 15 percent Mexican immigrant, 5 percent Native Americans; and 5 percent mixed race/other/Caucasian.

The **mission** of the Center is to strengthen community teens through educational support and character development programming.

### Service Delivery Highlights

**Teen Center Members Demeanor Change:** Teens continue to engage in community projects and advocate for the Teen Center when asked if it has made a difference in their lives. Staff members are welcoming and take sincere interest in the lives of members and visitors alike. New teen members quickly find their place within the Y family, and veteran members continue to grow and mentor new members.

## **2014 Teen Center Program Delivery:**

- 665 youth served in 2014
- Revealed a satisfaction survey of 47 students grading the Center a 3.7 on a 4.0 scale
- Recorded visits by members and guests totaling 9,875 in 244 open operating days
- Averaged 40 teens per day with peak days of 76 youth attending
- Held classes in 20 program categories delivering 723 hours of life skills instruction to our youth
- Our van transported an average of 18 teens daily, from Carlos Vigil Middle School and the Española Valley High School.

## **2014 Breakdown of classes with non-duplicate youth on first line:**

- 168 hours of Tutoring/Study Hour utilized by 92 non-duplicate youth
- 10 Woodworking classes: 40 non-duplicate youth participated
- 7 Baking/Cooking Classes: 51 non-duplicate youth participated
- 8 Holiday/Special Meals: 212 non-duplicated youth attended
- 43 Movie Afternoons: 71 non-duplicated youth participated
- 9 Field Trips: 43 non-duplicate youth attended
- 5 Informative talk/presentation: 34 non-duplicate youth
- 11 Community Participation events: 83 non-duplicate youth
- 4 Community Service events: 49 non-duplicate youth
- 10 Impact of Drugs presentations: 102 non-duplicated youth
- 99 Health/Group Sport and Recreation classes: 238 non-duplicated youth
- 1 Art class: 25 non-duplicated youth
- 2 Lock-in/sleepover: 19 non-duplicated youth
- 2 Green Thumb classes: 7 non-duplicated youth
- 84 Summer Food Program: 152 non-duplicated youth
- 12 Audio/Recording Studio classes: 22 non-duplicated youth
- 18 Youth and Government: 71 non-duplicated youth
- 8 Diorama, Car Model, Lowrider Bike class: 6 non-duplicated youth
- 1 Intro to Welding Class: 4 non-duplicated youth
- 50 Science based classes: 80 non-duplicated youth

## Goals and Activities

The Center uses educational and recreational offerings and its computer center with 15 state-of-the-art computers to further our goals: 1) to create a vibrant, safe, attractive, viable youth outreach center, serving as a point of gang intervention and substance abuse prevention, that is heavily used and considered a model program that can eventually be funded by local government; 2) to support mastery of educational benchmarks (math and literacy are identified areas of focus) through tutoring and supplemental educational programs; 3) to mentor and assist the teen population of Española and surrounding areas for continuing and higher education; 4) to mentor and encourage compassion, caring, respect and responsibility in the teen population; and 5) to foster healthy lifestyle choices.

The Center pursues three specific activities for these goals. The first service is that of educational support. We provide a tutor for homework assistance and have supported youth in reaching their educational benchmarks. Multi-year funding is needed to continue this service and to fund outreach/mentoring staff. Our Robotics Class has continued going strong. In 2014, RoboRALLY was born in Northern New Mexico, to give teams an opportunity to practice for RoboRAVE International in Albuquerque. Teens competed at RoboRALLY and RoboRAVE International held in Albuquerque in May of 2014. "Team Intergalactic" did great, the Middle School team took Second place in the a-MAZE\_ing Challenge, the Middle School Jousting team placed 9<sup>th</sup> and the High School team placed Third in the a-MAZE-ing Challenge. New challenges are coming for RoboRAVE 2015. We appreciate all the continued support we have received for the purchase of robots, supplies, travel and competition expenses. Youth in Government met throughout the year. Teens did various presentations, attended city council meetings, county commission meetings and analyzed political movies. In December, the Access Program began to utilize our computer lab as a classroom for teens to study for their GED. Classes are held twice a week, in addition, they connect the teens to on- the- job training opportunities. They will continue classes in 2015.

The second activity provided is that of service learning, community engagement and career advisement. Teens are encouraged to engage in diverse dialogue and participate in activities that challenge their thinking and various thought processes. Many are advocates for the Center, and have also become involved in community projects to include, our Fourth Annual Harvest Youth Parade, painting the sign for Venessa's Hideaway at Valdez Park, teens helped beautify the community by collecting trash for the Española Clean-up Day, we helped collect jackets for the La Tierra Montessori School and Four Bridges Traveling Permaculture Institute's Winter Coat Drive and our Second Annual "Warming Young Hearts" giving project. We hand-delivered sixty-two stockings filled with "warm" goodies to the children eleven years old and younger at the Pajarito Housing Community. The look on the children's faces when they saw our Christmas float and Santa arriving at their homes was priceless. Our Fifth Annual Str8 Ballin' 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament brought out sixteen teens to play their hearts out in the Fall.

The third activity that the YMCA provides in pursuit of our goals is that of character development. The Family YMCA exists to build the whole individual, including his/her character. Staff role model and stress our core values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility in all programming and interactions. We uphold this standard and expect the same from participants. Studies have shown that people are hard-wired to connect, that we need to associate with others. The Center provides this opportunity in a positive environment. All programming is aimed at developing a sense of purpose and hopefulness in youth in regards to their own skills and abilities to positively impact change.

Methodologies used to deliver these services are positive role modeling, community service and field trip incentives. Teens have responded favorably to requests for participation because of the positive relationships they have with staff.

## **Collaborations/Networking**

**City of Española:** 2007–present, operating contract to run center, now providing \$50K/year toward support.

**Con Alma Health Foundation:** \$15K for health activities 2013–2015; \$20K for 2012–13, multiple year past support.

**Cross Connection, Inc.:** \$35K in 2014 for healthy, enrichment programs for teens.

**Hatton Sumners Foundation:** 2012–2014, \$15K for Youth and Government.

**Los Alamos Medical Center:** \$1000 annual, multiple year program partner.

**Los Alamos National Laboratory, Community Programs Office:** 2013–2014, providing \$2,250 for tutoring and robotics. In 2012, awarded \$5,000 for tutor services, greenhouse and microbiology programs. In 2010 awarded \$6,500 for court improvements. LANL originally provided facility structure to city in 2000.

**Lowe's Foundation:** 2012–2014, \$10K support for carpentry classes.

**MAR Tech Services:** \$15K in 2014 for life skills classes, program and operational support.

**New Mexico Community Foundation, Pojoaque Valley Fund:** In 2014 awarded \$2,400 for enriching programs; \$1.5K in 2013 from PVF, \$1.5 from NMCF for operational support.

**New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps Commission:** 2009 to present, grants of \$150K plus in support of job programs that hire Espanola and Los Alamos youth for public work for community good. Award requires collaboration with **Los Alamos County; Santa Fe National Forest; Los Alamos Juvenile Justice Advisory Board.**

**Rio Arriba County:** In 2014, providing \$37K toward target programs under contract for services. Since 2012 onward, RAC has provided \$15K for operations; in 2011, gave \$10K targeted to programs in partnership with RAJJAB and DWI Council.

**Robert E and Evelyn McKee Foundation:** In 2014 awarded \$2,500 for enriching programs; \$1.5K in 2013; 2011 awarded \$5,200 for technology.

**Santa Fe Community Foundation:** 2014 awarded \$15K for healthy programs for teens; Jack and Mary Gilliam Endowment Fund, \$500 in 2013; Wallen–Eloisa Family Fund, \$250; SFCF provided \$5K in 2011 for operational support.

**Santa Fe County:** \$15K in 2014–15 for enrichment programs for Santa Fe County youth; partner since 2013.

**Santa Fe Presbytery, Mission in The North:** In 2013, awarded \$5K for sculptural welding, in 2012 awarded \$5k for audio engineering program.

**State Farm Good Citizen Award:** 2013 funding of \$20K for life skills classes, and \$4K in 2014.

**SOC-Los Alamos:** \$2,500 in 2014, 2013 towards program support, multiple year partner.

**The Frost Foundation, LTD.:** 2013-2014 funding of \$10K for youth programs.

**United Way of Northern New Mexico:** In 2014 provided \$25K; multiple past year partner.

**YMCA of the USA:** 2014 provided \$4K toward capacity building.

**Collaborate with and/or received donations:**

**Española Public Schools:** Ongoing partner for Summer Food Service Program. Annually assists with book sharing, 2012 provided computer tables; **City of Española;** **Rio Arriba Youth Service Providers** (director is a council member); **Rio Arriba Community Health Council** (director is council member); **Northern New Mexico College;** **El Centro Family Health;** **Valle del Sol;** **Agave Behavioral Health;** **La Vision del Valle Coalition-Hands Across Cultures;** **Rio Arriba County Teen Drug Court;** **R.A.C.S.T.O.P.**(director is the Vice-chairperson); **Rio Arriba County Juvenile Community Corrections;** **Rio Arriba Drug Free Communities Programs;** **State of New Mexico Juvenile Probation Services;** **Española Public Schools;** **Northern Youth Project;** **Northern New Mexico Regional Arts Center;** **Region III Drug Implementation Team** (director is a team committee member); **Rio Arriba County Joint Task Force** (director is a council member); **Pojoaque Valley Fund;** **New Mexico Community Foundation;** **Lovin' Oven Bakery;** **Northern New Mexico Walk Against Drugs;** **City of Española Teen Court;** **Lowe's Home Improvement;** **Valley View United Methodist Church;** **McDonald's Restaurant, Española, NM;** **Santa Fe Civic Housing Authority;** **Española Food Co-op;** **Lighthouse Church;** **La Tierra Montessori School;** **LANL Community Programs Office;** **Inquiry Facilitators (RoboRAVE International);** **Access, NM.**