

## Nonprofit Growing Fast

### Boys & Girls Clubs of Redlands Listed as One of the Top 100 Fastest Financially Growing Youth Serving Nonprofits in America

By Joy Juedes, Staff Writer

REDLANDS DAILY FACTS & SAN BERNARDINO SUN

November 10, 2010



*Sarah Benson quizzes a group of kindergarten through second-grade students in between playing high yield learning games Tuesday at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Redlands. (ERIC TOM/Staff Photographer)*

REDLANDS - The Boys & Girls Clubs of Redlands is growing fast - and drawing national recognition.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Redlands was named one of the fastest growing youth-serving nonprofits in the country in a recently released survey.

The survey, conducted by the Bridgespan Group, covers the years 2002 through 2007. And the trend continued past those dates, according to the clubs.

"These recent numbers suggest growth is still continuing despite economic times," said board president Andrew Hartzell.

The Bridgespan Group listed 20 youth-service nonprofits in five revenue categories. The Boys & Girls Clubs was listed in the \$50,000-\$499,000 category, and organizations were not ranked.

"We're proud of the recognition of our club's growth and hope the community and those considering funding decisions are equally impressed," Hartzell said.

Staff is working on a "transformative" project to continue growth in membership, resources and staff development, said Chief Financial Officer P.T. McEwen.

"Growth for growth's sake is not the goal," he said.

McEwen credited staff and board of directors for the organization's growth.

"Our vision is build a stronger, bigger organization, serve more young people and increase resources to meet community concerns," said program services director Mark Davis.

Boys & Girls staff recently did leadership training and will do a project every six months to continue growth, McEwen said. They are meeting this week to whittle down ideas, he said.

"This project is going to be the catalyst to position our organization for continued sustainability," he said.

Senior site director Montrice Shabete said future plans include increasing "tween" membership and finding funding resources. McEwen and Hartzell said they are looking ahead to the next five years.

Membership rose from 921 to 966 from 2008 to 2009 and membership was 984 at the end of September, according to the organization. The largest spike, from 2007 to 2008, from 568 to 921. Three clubhouses, including the main Hansberger clubhouse on Clay Street and Lugonia Avenue, opened in the past four years, according to the organization.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Redlands covers five locations, two sites in Redlands, one in Mentone, one in Loma Linda and one in San Bernardino.

The organization recently received a \$2,500 renovation grant from Home Depot. The corporation provided new landscaping and painted cubbyholes.

"Most of the work was outside," McEwen said. "Now we look all spiffy."

Best Buy also awarded the organization a \$5,000 grant for teen services, he said.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Redlands holds two major annual fundraisers, Chocolate Fantasy in February and Monte Carlo Night in fall.

The clubs are holding a Thanksgiving event Nov. 23 with the Kiwanis Club, Davis said.

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