

## **PROJECT PURPOSE AND ECONOMIC IMPACT:**

The Nan Knox Boys & Girls Club has served the community since 1968. It was our second club to open in Broward County as the Northwest Boys Club and reached over 1,000 members in the first year. It was also the first to admit girls in 1987 and changed its name to the Boys & Girls Club.

Over 700 Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County teen members were surveyed about their desires and needs related to their Club experience.

- **62% Want to learn about how to get a job**
- **61% Want a safe and drug free place to go**
- **57% Want staff members who are trained to work specifically with teens**
- **54% want to learn how to manage their money**

That said, in order to achieve our vision of helping our members graduate from high school with a plan for their future, we must keep them engaged through their teen years. Our research shows that when provided with a space of their own, teen members are more likely to remain active in their club. The proposed teen center will increase our capacity to provide more intentional programming focused on teen needs.

Due to a generous donation from the Fred DeLuca Foundation (founder of Subway), the Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County has secured the capital and naming rights to expand our existing Nan Knox Club, located in Fort Lauderdale, to include a Teen Center. The 7,200 square foot state of the art Teen Center will include specialty rooms such as a recording studio, technology lab and a culinary arts kitchen. The Teen Center will continue to offer programming in our core areas of academic success, good character and healthy lifestyles, but will heavily emphasize career and education exploration and support, as well as our Workforce Development Initiative, that helps place members in part time jobs, apprenticeships or full time positions upon graduation. Members can also earn certificates in safe food handling, refereeing, UPS Road Code Safe Driving, with other certification programs being added on a constant rotating schedule.

The Teen Center will create 2 new full time positions (\$41k/year and \$36k/year) and 5 new part time jobs (salaries will range from \$9k to \$14k/year). Moreover, it will be a pipeline of young talent prepared and anxious to acquire jobs currently available.

The Teen Center concept is a proven solution. We have an active Teen Center in North Lauderdale that has implemented programs focused specifically for our teens and the results have been positive. Currently, 140 Club Members have been hired through existing workforce development programs.

In 2017-2018, 221 Nan Knox teen members spent 29,151 hours in the club which currently has only an 800 square foot teen room. Enrollment is up almost 5% at the 3 feeder high schools (Stranahan, Dillard and Fort Lauderdale). Considering these 2 factors, the Teen Center should be at capacity on opening day.

The most recent ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed) report states that 50% of the homes in Broward County are at risk of falling below the poverty line - 340,000 homes. There are only 353,000 homes in Duval County, by comparison. Many of those at risk in Broward County are in the 33311 zip code.

Several entities have identified a labor shortage and a need for workforce development initiatives while teen unemployment in Fort Lauderdale hovers above 60% often touching the 70% mark. The Broward Alliance, Broward Workshop, Broward College and Broward Schools have all echoed this sentiment. Many of the firms experiencing the labor shortage, including the city of Fort Lauderdale, are blocks away from the Club, almost guaranteeing employment opportunities once trained.