

What my Boys Club means to me

As a youth that grew up in very difficult situations, I long to see the day when a child has a safe, productive lifestyle. Whether it be in the family or another safe alternative, children need a positive safe place to go.

I enjoy watching young people live wonderful childhoods. I enjoy the smiles of children and knowing that they have hope in a world that contains dangerous obstacles that can take all hope away.

In a society that lacks programs, support groups, and people who care, it is a necessity to fulfill the needs of needy children. Children who need support, children who need clean, sober adults to supervise and teach them.

The East Side Boys and Girls club and other clubs in our city are providing this and more.

With the rising threat of drugs and gang activity around us daily, I have personally witnessed "at risk youth" experience a better way of life through the Boys Clubs in Tacoma. Including myself.

As I described in the previous short story of my life and some of the problems that I had to overcome, the Boys Clubs are one of the best ways to create a positive, bright, drug and gang free generation of children and teens.

Since my youth I have been involved with the East Side Boys and Girls club. To this day I use the club as a means to stay clean and sober, which is one of the most important things in my life. I am playing senior league basketball for the second year now and I am highly grateful of the program. I have personally brought two at risk gang members out of the gang with the help of the East Side Boys Club.

To conclude, the Boys Clubs are a way of helping me reach my ultimate dream: A generation of youth with sober parents and the knowledge to know what is right for them. A generation of youth that will raise yet another generation of clean, sober, caring, and concerned youth. Long after we are gone.

Thank You,

Charles Lamont Carson