

BRADENTON, FLORIDA

DeSoto Boys & Girls Club

Construction of new 37,500 sq. ft. recreational facility providing services to 2,400 low-income children annually

DeSoto Boys & Girls Club
5231 34th St.
Bradenton, FL

NMTC allocation:
\$10.5M
from Florida
Community Loan
Fund

Total Project Cost:
\$11.5M

Investor :
PNC Bank

Other Financing:
Synovus Bank

Jobs:
200 temporary
and 34 permanent
jobs estimated

Children served:
Estimated reach of
2,400 children and
youth annually

Timing:
Construction
began June 2018;
ribbon cutting &
youth services
begin at new site
August 2019

Since its establishment in 1946, more than 40,000 children have passed through the doors of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County (BGCMC). After decades of use, one of its facilities, the 50-year old DeSoto Club, was deteriorating and its resources were becoming obsolete for 21st-century education. The Boys & Girls Clubs conducted a capital campaign to raise funds for the construction of a new building, but rising construction costs kept the fundraising goal just out of reach.



With financing through the NMTC program, BGCMC is building a new 37,500 square-foot building that more than doubles the capacity of the former facility and will reach an estimated 2,400 children and youth annually, 75% of whom are low-income. BGCMC programs include academic excellence, good character and citizenship, and healthy lifestyles. The new clubhouse includes an upgraded computer lab, space for mentoring sessions with local elected officials and entrepreneurs, an art workshop, a new gymnasium, nutrition classes in a commercial kitchen, and space for other community activities and events designed to inspire these students to become future community leaders.

Although often misunderstood as simply “recreation centers,” many Boys & Girls Clubs serve as the only choice in disadvantaged communities that youth have to turn towards after school. Beyond academic support and teaching financial literacy and good citizenship, Clubs provide a safe place, where they can build a sense of community and trust with other kids and adults, and often is the only chance for a square meal for kids coming from single-parent households or families in dire financial situations.

The success rate for BGCMC program participants is high, with 95% expected to graduate on time and 93% on grade level for



Above: A July 2019 view from overhead and the front of the nearly completed facility

BRADENTON, FLORIDA

DeSoto Boys and Girls Club (continued)



“Thanks to FCLF’s support, the children who need us most will benefit from a state-of-the-art facility and be able to reach their full potential.”
 – Dawn Stanhope, President & CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County

their age. A study estimates that each dollar invested in a Boys & Girls Club returns nearly ten dollars in benefits to the community by increasing earning power and lowering costs associated with healthcare, public assistance, and incarceration.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee is proud of its alumni and what they have accomplished. Students who participate in BGCMC programs frequently go on to be pillars of the community, such as a city councilman, a lung cancer research scientist, a county sheriff, and a professional baseball player. Many of these “Club Kids” alumni continue to support current students as mentors and with financial support.

Located near the State College of Florida, Bayshore High School, and IMG Academy, the new facility is a centerpiece for county-wide youth services. Upon completion, the old building will be demolished and the land used to catalyze additional local economic development to generate revenue for BGCMC. The new facility also aligns with 4 area redevelopment plans: Manatee County Comprehensive Plan, Southwest County Urban Services Area, Priority Redevelopment Corridors, and Manatee County Children’s Services Annual Plan.

Florida Community Loan Fund (FCLF) provided \$10.5 million in federal NMTCs for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County. PNC Bank provided the NMTC equity, and additional commercial loan financing was provided by Synovus Bank.

“Without NMTC, it could have taken years to pull together financing for this project,” said Nelson Black, FCLF’s Chief Lending Officer. “The time to mentor children and youth is right now – not years down the road. The new Boys & Girls Club will reach thousands of students every year, in their own back yard; and it will reach them right now.”

According to Neel Shah, President of Shah Capital Advisors, an NMTC consulting firm that supports project sponsors, “Many youth call the Boys & Girls Clubs their ‘second home’ and years later ‘Club Kids’ say that their Club saved their life – as an alternative to getting trapped in a gang, ending up in jail, or even worse becoming a casualty of street violence. What amazing examples of how the NMTC program can help provide low-income youth with a path up and out of the cycle of poverty.”

Community Profile

- Highly distressed area with extremely low income (51% of the area median) and high unemployment rate (more than twice the national average)
- Part of the Bradenton, FL, and Manatee County Comprehensive Plan
- TIF District, USDA Food Desert, Medically Underserved Area / Population