

## **Homework Club Montebello Outcome Report**

### **Term 3, 2009-2010 School Year**

#### Background

Homework Club has been operating at Montebello apartments since September 2008. The club has been held Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:00-4:45 PM since then excluding holidays and other school breaks. The club is available to all resident youth enrolled in grades 1-6. During the 2009-2010 school year, the club has been staffed by Program Services Manager Gracie Garcia, Program Coordinators Jorge Tello, Juan Carlos Aguilera, and Maria Moreno, as well as three Youth Program Coordinators. During Term 3 the club was led by Youth Program Coordinator Amanda Schuft on Wednesday and Juan Carlos Aguilera on Monday. The Montebello homework club had outstanding volunteers with relevant experience: Debi Myers, Nancy Johnson, Carrie Miller, Lilia Sahno, and Kate Schiewe. During this term the Montebello also had three volunteers come as part of a PCC Service Learning Project for their Spanish 203 class taught by Stephanie Zink. The PCC students completed the optional project by working 8 hours at the Montebello Homework Club. Zink will continue to give her Spanish students the option to volunteer with Bienestar to fulfill project requirements in the coming scholastic year. The volunteers at Montebello worked notably hard to make the program a success. We had 19 students on the roster at the end of the 2009-2010 school year. Snacks were provided for the students every session through our partnership with the Oregon Food Bank.

We focused on ensuring the children complete their weekly school work assignments. At the Montebello Homework Club it was a rule that the students must bring their backpacks and homework. We were successful in making sure the children completed their school work at Homework Club. Bienestar staff members and volunteers circulated the room, assisting children who had questions and checked their work for accuracy. All staff and volunteers worked hard to make sure kids were able to comprehend what they were being asked to do. At Montebello the use of flash cards, and manipulatives in a group setting was very beneficial to the students. The group setting and repetition of these learning activities helped the children to strengthen their basic math skills as well as increase their confidence among their peers. The students showed marked improvement in small addition and subtraction; and it helped many students to memorize the multiplication tables.

If the students did not have homework they worked on the worksheets that we provided. During term three, worksheets were geared toward reviewing the materials the students had learned during the year. Each student had a folder where they could put their worksheets at the end of homework time if they were unfinished so they could continue working the next time they did not have homework.

After 30 minutes of homework time, there was 30 minutes of reading time. During reading time the students could read one of the books provided by Bienestar, or a book they brought from school. Students could read independently, with a partner, or with an adult. During this term Bienestar was able to give students books they showed interest in to help bolster their motivation to read. The volunteers and staff each sat with one or more students reading aloud or listening and coaching a student. Our volunteer Carrie Miller brought a trained therapy service dog that the students take turn reading to. The students

enjoyed reading to the dog and it was a great motivational tool for them. When reading to the dog the students were focused and engaged.

The last half hour is free time for the students and they were able to play an array of educational games that were provided. The students were also given the opportunity to make beaded bracelets with materials donated by Carrie Miller. Miller also helped the students learn how to do this craft. Homework Club students also enjoyed an end of the year party on June 9<sup>th</sup> with volunteers and staff.

### Outcome

#### Attendance:

There were 19 students enrolled in our Montebello homework Club at the end of the 2009-2010 school year. Attendance was lower than average during this term, as is common when the end the school year approaches. Students were also more frequently out of town during this term.

#### Grades: (see analysis on website for specific results)

The children submit their report cards at the conclusion of every term. This term the collection of report cards was very difficult because students were released a week before report cards were sent out. Homework Club was no longer in session when report cards were released. Some students spend time in Mexico during the summer which also made it difficult to collect report cards. Bienestar made efforts to receive as many report cards as possible including phone calls and home visits. We analyze them and check for improvement in individual subjects, overall GPA and homework grades. We collected report cards from 14 of the 19 children who were enrolled in Homework Club for all of term 3. We used the second term of the 2009-2010 school year as the base to measure student performance. As mentioned, improvement is monitored in individual subjects. We use "net improvement" to determine this in our analysis. For example, if a student improved in 2 subjects but declined in 1, they would have a (+1) score under net improvement.

12 out of the 14 students who we received report cards for term 3, showed improvement in their report cards. Those 12 students not only improved their GPA's, but also had positive net improvement in subjects. Of the two students who did not improve, one showed no changes in their grades, and the other only a slight decrease in GPA. Both students receive good report cards consistently. Most students received dramatically better grades for term 3 than term 2. The result was a positive change of the GPA equivalent average for the group of more than 2 tenths of a point higher than term 2. Of the 14 report cards analyzed, 10 students received an Always Consistent homework grade and 4 received a Usually Consistent homework grade. There was little deviation in homework grade from last term.

The staff and volunteers worked together to improve the effectiveness of Homework Club. Often volunteers stayed after Homework Club to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the program and what positive adjustments could be made. Each person who worked at this Homework Club was very dedicated to seeing the program and the children involved succeed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Schuft