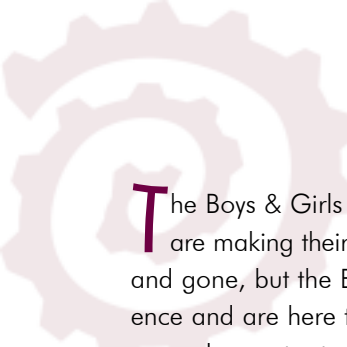


“EVERY CHILD HAS THE  
POTENTIAL TO SUCCEED.

THE BOYS & GIRLS  
CLUB MODEL IS  
THE BEST MODEL.”



The Boys & Girls Clubs located in this vast countryside are making their mark. Other youth programs have come and gone, but the Boys & Girls Clubs are making a difference and are here to stay! Confronted with a 70 percent unemployment rate and a 50 percent school dropout rate, a united community is determined to replace those negative numbers with positive outcomes!

The Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation in Montana covers nearly 450,000 acres and is surrounded by rolling hills and pine-covered mountains. Of the 6,900 enrolled tribal members, approximately 4,400 live on the reservation; more than half are under 18. The Boys & Girls Club started in 1993, after tribal leaders began searching for a way to make a difference in the lives of community youth. Their Club was only the second Club chartered on an Indian reservation.

According to the Club's Executive Director, Rick Robinson, “The Boys & Girls Club model is the very best model...it gets kids in touch with people who really care about them.” Started in a 15,000-square-foot building given to the tribe by the St. Labre Indian Mission, the facility was remodeled with 3,000 volunteer hours and materials purchased with a HUD grant. Today, the Club serves well over 1,000 members and offers an array of strong programs and activities for those children.

The Club sponsors a unique daily breakfast program, providing each child with a nutritional start to the day. The Club also features a “slam dunk” late night basketball program for teens and a thriving T-shirt business that is managed and run by Club members. Manager Jeff Bearing credits his involvement with the business with keeping him out of trouble and doing something he enjoys and of which he feels very proud.

Like many other Clubs, they recognize how fortunate they are to have the support of the PowerUp Program and a full-scale computer lab. At the Center, members can do

their homework, research on the Internet, connect with other Club members across the nation, play games, and “exercise their minds!” In addition, involvement with the educational Power Hour after-school homework program has led to better grades in schools, lower dropout rates, and improved reading and study skills.

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Northern Cheyenne Nation is lucky to have great staff members like Emma Harris, Director of Operations. Her personal concern, care, and respect for each



child helps them have the confidence to succeed. Emma truly believes that “every child has the potential to succeed.” She helps create an atmosphere where kids can feel good about themselves and learn to have respect and concern for others. Staff like Emma underscore the critical role

they play in shaping the lives of the children they see each day. The Clubs in Montana are excellent examples of the positive impact that staff, volunteers, tribal leadership, and community support has on creating a successful Club environment.



## Contact Information

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