



Bienestar

Building housing, hope and futures

Bienestar and Forest Grove School District Homework Club Outcome Report

BACKGROUND:

The 2009/2010 school year marked the second year of Homework Club. Homework Club took place at the Jose Arciga Community Center located at 2922 19th Avenue in Forest Grove, Oregon. Homework Club began in October 2009 and ran through June 2010. The club ran for 23 weeks; 7 more than the 2008-2009 school year. The program was an after school tutoring club modeled after the Multnomah County's Schools Uniting Neighborhoods (SUN) program. Classes were offered on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and were attended by resident students ranging from 1st to 6th grade from Bienestar apartments at Elm Park I & II, Willow Park, and Jose Arciga. The students came from the following schools: Fern Hill, Joseph Gale and Tom McCall. Forest Grove School District transportation department, parents and Bienestar staff coordinated for the children to get dropped off at the site. Parents were responsible for picking up their child after class. Bienestar Promotores were instrumental in recruiting and registering children for the homework club. Promotores conducted home visits and explained the program to the parents and then assisted them in completing the registration paperwork.

Thanks to a generous grant of WorkStudy funds from Pacific University, Bienestar provided two staff members: Jill Madison and Kate Schiewe. Both are students at Pacific University. Madison worked at Homework Club two days a week as the Youth Coordinator and Schiewe worked one day a week as an assistant to Madison.

The focus of the club was to ensure that the students were completing their weekly homework assignments and also to help them develop good school habits. A concerted effort was also made to build lesson comprehension and dedicate time for reading practice. Students arrived at approximately 3:45 p.m. on site and were given a snack provided by Bienestar. At 4:00 p.m. students would start working on their homework. Bienestar staff members and volunteers circulated the room, assisting children who had questions and checking their work for accuracy. All staff and volunteers worked hard to make sure kids comprehended what they were being asked to do. This year we had several volunteers from Pacific University and Portland Community College. This averaged eight adults per day providing assistance to the students. Having this many volunteers allowed for having at least one adult working with four or five students. The volunteers typically worked with the same students each day they were there, which provided the children with a chance to become comfortable with the volunteers they worked with. This made it easier for the children who were shy about reading or writing in English to get the specific attention that they needed. If the students did not have homework they could work on the worksheets that we provided. Bienestar is making an ongoing effort to tailor the worksheets specifically to each individual student's development needs and to provide worksheets that will supplement what the children are learning in their classes. Each student had a folder where they could put their worksheets at the end of homework time if they were unfinished so they were able to 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. The volunteers and staff each sat with one or more student reading aloud or listening and coaching a student.

The last half hour was free time for the students and they could play an array of educational games that were provided.

Parents arrived around 5:15 p.m. to pick up their children. The volunteers would then debrief together on their observation, make process notes in each student's file.

21 Homework Club students also participated in a five week financial literacy class taught by Program Coordinator Maria Moreno. The class was held each Wednesday to introduce the children to the concepts of making better decisions for spending, saving, borrowing, investing, and managing their money. The class also taught students about different ways to earn money. 15 students opened savings accounts at Wells Fargo at the finalization of the class.

OUTCOMES:

**Enrollment Numbers: 15 Students October through December
 23 Students February through June**

In January the Forest Grove School District provided Bienestar with a list of 27 students who were eligible to be transported to Homework Club with funding through Migrant Education. Each of these 27 students were residents of other Bienestar properties in Forest Grove. Youth Program Coordinator Amanda Schuft conducted home visits to register eligible students to Homework Club with the help of resident promotores Elvira Toscano, Elsa Barajas, and Alejandra Aguilar. Of the 27 students, 11 were enrolled in Homework Club from February to the end of the school year.

Attendance: 86%

Students attended two times per week for 23 weeks, with the exception of our new students who attended two times per week for 14 weeks. We had an average of 86% weekly attendance rate over the course of the 23 week program. Many of the absences are due to illness, doctor/dentist appointments, and family vacations.

Grades:

There are four possible levels of explanation of marks ranging from NE=Not Evaluated at this time; O=Outstanding; S=Satisfactory and N=Needs Improvement. Included are also four levels of performance such as: AB=Above Grade Level; AT=At Grade Level, BE=Below Grade Level and ME=Modified Expectation. Each student studies 11 subjects, and the number of performance evaluations varies per subject. Students are also marked on the characteristics of a successful learner. Factors that go into the grade include the student's work ethic, the assignments' correctness and whether or not the student turns the homework in by the due date. School district agreed to provide us with most recent report card at the beginning, middle and final trimester to determine progress levels.