

AT&T Aspire: Boys & Girls Club of Green Bay Graduating Students, One Community at a Time



Program Description:

In the United States, one student drops out of school every 26 seconds. Nationally, students from low-income families drop out at a rate four times higher than students from higher income families. The Boys & Girls Club of Green Bay is committed to reversing this trend.

Since 2010, the Club has implemented BE GREAT: Graduate, a graduation initiative that has helped 60 Green Bay teens remain engaged in school and achieve on-time grade progression. BE GREAT: Graduate pairs at-risk youth with positive adult Graduation Coaches who provide a persistent source of motivation that “education is important for your future.” Weekly one-on-one interactions with Graduation Coaches build students’ confidence that they can succeed academically.

BE GREAT: Graduate utilizes the Check & Connect model, an evidence-based educational intervention proven to increase the odds of graduation for youth who are disengaged and at risk of dropout. Each week, Graduation Coaches “check” school performance data and then “connect” with students to provide timely interventions that address obstacles and celebrate successes.

After the second year of implementing BE GREAT: Graduate, 80% of participants increased or maintained grades in reading, while 70% increased or maintained math grades. Along with the program’s focus on academic success, BE GREAT: Graduate improves students’ classroom behavior and social skills by teaching goal-setting and conflict resolution skills. As a result, 50% of participants have exhibited a decrease in school behavioral referrals.

Lissette L., age 13, with her Graduation Coach Ralph Powless at the Boys & Girls Club of Green Bay



The Boys & Girls Club of Green Bay will use AT&T Aspire funding to expand this proven graduation strategy by enrolling 40 new high school students in grades 9 and 10 who will receive weekly academic support over the next two years. In total, BE GREAT: Graduate will support 100 teens in reaching graduation and achieving post-secondary success.

- The Boys & Girls Club of Green Bay helps school age youth make better choices and reach their full potential, serving **over 4,000 youth** each year.
- **75% of Club members** come from families with an annual household income of below \$25,000.
- **88% of Club teens** plan to go to college.

“My Graduation Coach helps me find out about college opportunities and set goals in life. Since joining BE GREAT: Graduate, I went from being a D student to a B student. You should see my report card.”

– Lissette L., age 13



Students:
40 new
participants



Funding:
\$154,000