



Jackson County

Monica Lobenstein
monica.lobenstein@ces.
uwex.edu
715-284-4257



Linda Sunde
CNCS, WI State Director
(414) 297-1118 X11
lsunde@cns.gov

UWEX AmeriCorps*VISTA Success Story

By Sarah Sexton, VISTA Member

Youth Lead Planning Project for Teen Center Situation: Due to lack of after-school venues and events for older youth in Jackson County the youth have expressed the need for a place created for them, by them. Members of Jackson County have tried to provide centers for the youth. These centers have been unsuccessful due to lack of appeal, promotion or funding. This space is needed for the older youth in Jackson County to provide healthy alternative choices to stay out of trouble and offer programs and events that are not available to them currently. Response: To address the issue of no venue for the older youth of Jackson County, UW-Extension partnered with the Boys and Girls Club to create THE CLUB. The space for THE CLUB is being provided through the Boys and Girls Club of Jackson County. VISTA members have gathered a group of Middle and High School aged youth to form a group that has developed a plan. The planning of this space was created by this group of youth to ensure that the majority of youth's needs and wants are met. Throughout the meetings for THE CLUB, the youth have designed a layout and vibe for the space, the resources they wish to be available to them, and the events and activities they would like to host at this space. THE CLUB will provide a calm hangout atmosphere for the teens in Jackson County. The space will be promoted to Jackson County youth, focusing on teenagers. This space will provide the youth with a place to go in the community that is safe, supervised and constructive. Results: There are 20 youth members that have developed the plan for THE CLUB. Their excitement for this teen center has drawn in the interest of more youth and adult partnership. THE CLUB has received complete support from The Boys and Girls Club to continue on their design and activity planning. The youth have a continued interest in this project and are moving forward with supply purchasing and will begin construction of their space within the month of April. The promotion of the space will be done through word of mouth from participating teens, flyers, announcements at school and through press releases in the media. Evidence: The youth have taken necessary steps to continue on the plan. They have made final decisions on the color scheme going into the space, flooring, and entertainment and resources that will be available. The ideas were presented by the youth to the Boys and Girls Club of Jackson County Board of Directors and The Board approved the changes the youth would like to see.