



**OLIVET
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**
OF READING & BERKS COUNTY

Olivet Boys & Girls Club provides comprehensive youth development through five core program areas:

- Character & Leadership Development**
- Education & Career Development**
- Health & Life Skills**
- The Arts**
- Sports, Fitness & Recreation**



www.olivetbgc.org

(610) 373-1314



Olivet Boys & Girls Club: At a Glance

MISSION

“To enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as healthy, productive, caring, responsible citizens.”

MEMBERSHIP

- Serves youth between the ages of 6-18.
- Open year round
- Programs are focused in five areas:
 - Character & Leadership Development
 - Education & Career Development
 - Health & Life Skills
 - The Arts
 - Sports, Fitness & Recreation
- There are **nine** locations in Reading and Berks County & **four** locations in Pottstown
- Primary funding sources: United Way, Grants, Philanthropy
- **57%** Male
- **43%** Female

- **30%** Black/African American
- **43%** Hispanic
- **20%** Multi-racial
- **5%** White/Caucasian

- **86%** living at or below the poverty level
- **78% of Club members** believe coming to the Club helps them take more responsibility for their actions
- **90% of Club members** surveyed, report that coming to the Club helped them stay away from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs
- **84% of secondary school Club members** improved their academic performance or maintained good grades

SCOPE & IMPACT

Out of the **6,888** cardholding members:

- **1,200** youth participated in the Computer Center
- **1,273** youth participated in the Homework Center Power Hour
- **1,626** teens participated in teen center programs
- **989** participated in structured gym activities



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JEFFREY M. PALMER
Chief Executive Officer
Olivet Boys & Girls Club

As the Chief Executive Officer of Olivet Boys & Girls Club, Jeffrey M. Palmer is responsible for managing the strategic planning and organization of the club. He collaborates with the Olivet Boys & Girls Club Board of Directors to develop organizational goals, attain and allocate resources, and establish policies.

Palmer became a member of the Olivet Boys & Girls Club in 1965, when it was previously known as Olivet Boys Club. His first part-time job was as a camp counselor for the club during the summers of 1966-1968.

After graduating from Reading High School in 1969, Palmer attended West Chester University in Pennsylvania and worked as a Unit Director and a Summer Camp Director for the Olivet Boys Club while going to college. In 1973, he graduated from West Chester University and became the Assistant Executive Director of Olivet Boys Club and then went on to become the CEO of the club, which is the position he still holds to this date.

Under Palmer's leadership, Olivet Boys & Girls Club has grown significantly. The organization has grown from a Boys Club that served 900 boys in two locations to a Boys & Girls Club that currently serves the needs of thousands of children in 9 locations within Reading, Berks County, 4 locations in Pottstown, and a 110 acre camp in Hamburg.

Palmer is a current member of the Professional Association and the Princeton Crew Advisory Committee. He is a past Chairman of the Interstate Area Chapter and the Northeast Administrative Conference. Palmer is also a past Executive Secretary of the Pennsylvania Alliance/Area Council.

Palmer received a Bachelor's degree in Education in 1973 from West Chester University. The same year he was also a graduate of the first Boys Club Management Program and went on to become a Certified Professional in 1975.



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JAMES R. SMITH, Ed.D.
Chief Operating Officer
Olivet Boys & Girls Club

As the Chief Operating Officer of Olivet Boys & Girls Club, Dr. James R. Smith administers the full operation of the club's programs and activities. He ensures the health and safety of the club's members as well as developing collaborative partnerships with the public, civic groups and social agencies within the community.

Smith has been enriching the lives of teens since 1972 when he began his career as a Social Studies teacher for the Lehigh Area High School. Then, in 1986 he took on the job of Assistant High School Principal and later became the Junior High School Principal in 1988. During this time he also coached the Lehigh Varsity Boys' Basketball team and led the team to three Centennial League Championships (1976, 1986, 1988) and two District Eleven Championships (1977 & 1988).

In 1989, Smith served as the Junior High School Principal of the Exeter Township School District until 2005 when he took on the position of the Exeter Senior High School Principal. He remained at this position until 2007 when he was hired as the Chief Operating Officer of the Boys & Girls Club.

Smith received a Bachelors of Science in Education in 1972 and a Masters of Education in History in 1977 from East Stroudsburg University. In 1980, he received a Secondary Principal Certification from Penn State University. Lastly, he received a Superintendent's Letter of Eligibility in 1996 and a Doctorate of Education in 1999 from Widener University.

The Positive Place For Kids



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What The Club Means To Me

By: Monica Rivera 2009

What I like about the Olivet's Boy's and Girl's is that I can do fun thing's. Thing's I can do in the Olivet's Boy's and Girl's is that I can play game's and be with people I know. I can be with my friend's and I can meet new people. When I play game's I have fun playing them.

How I feel in the Olivet's is I feel safe because I know that there is staff to take care of us. There is always a first aid kit in the Olivet's. If you get hurt they can give you what you need.

That is why I like the Olivet Boys & Girls Club.

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What the Olivet Boys & Girls Club Means to Me...

**By: Johanneiris Cedeno
Olivet Boys & Girls Club
Jamestown Village Unit
Age 12**

The Olivet has always been a great place for me to go after school; it is a safe place to hang out, my friends and I meet here and don't have to worry about violence and negative influences. We play games, do our homework, go on the computer, there are also arts and crafts that we participate in and we also have fun with activities outside.

I have been coming to the Olivet Boys & Girls Club for almost a year and my grades have improved and I feel so much better about myself and my future. I am more interested in my school work and being more active in my neighborhood. The unit director at the Jamestown unit has helped me be more involved in community service by helping kids with their crafts and outdoor activities, cleaning up and taking out the trash. I also like to help with the Kids Café and snack programs.

By coming to the Olivet Boys & Girls Club I feel I can reach my full potential as a healthy, productive, caring, responsible young lady. I hope to inspire others to be able to do the same. With the help of the Olivet's I will be able to achieve my goals both in school and in life.

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What the Club Means To Me

By: Yves Diaz-Cruz

What more can I say; the Olivet Boys and Girls Club means everything to me. I have been going to the club since I was a little girl of 6 years old. I have been a long time member. I love the Olivet's more many reasons. The Olivet's is a safe place to be, there is always plenty of games and competitions, prizes and gifts, most of all a lot of love. Since I walked threwh the door when I first signed up I felt like I was at home. It's not just Jamestown Olivet's it's every club I attend. When I get in the door I always feel like I'm wanted and that I am safe. The best thing about the club is we have staff we can talk to about anything and they always listen and just hear what you have to say. I love the Olivet Boys and Girls Club!