



FULL INTERVIEW WITH

Jordan Rodriguez

DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING
STAFF OF THE MONTH

You've been with Olivet a long time! Give us a brief summary of your journey here.

Since joining Olivet Boys & Girls Club in 2011, I have progressively advanced through a variety of leadership roles, beginning as a Youth Development Professional (YDP) Gym Coordinator. Over the years, I have held positions including Teen Center Coordinator, Front Desk Coordinator, Assistant Site Director, Glenside Site Coordinator, and Site Director. I later served as Director of Grant Funded Programs & Volunteers and currently lead as the Director of Programs. My journey reflects a strong commitment to youth development, operational leadership, and program innovation within the organization.

What drew you to work in this field? At Olivet?

What initially drew me to Olivet Boys & Girls Club was the opportunity to make a real, lasting impact on the lives of young people in my community. I've always believed in the power of mentorship and providing youth with a safe, supportive environment where they can grow, be heard, and reach their full potential. Olivet's mission aligned perfectly with my passion for service, leadership, and creating positive change. Over time, seeing the transformation in the kids we serve; not just academically, but emotionally and socially, has deepened my commitment to youth development and reinforced why I chose this path.



What is your favorite or most rewarding part of your job?

The most rewarding part of my job is seeing the direct impact our programs have on the lives of the youth we serve. Whether it's a young person gaining confidence, overcoming personal challenges, or discovering a new passion, it's incredibly fulfilling to know I played a part in their growth. I often think of it as planting seeds and watching them grow; helping them build a foundation now that will support them for years to come. I also find joy in mentoring staff and developing future youth leaders. Seeing both kids and staff grow under my guidance is a powerful reminder that the work I do truly matters, not just for individuals, but for the future of our entire community.

What stands out as your proudest professional accomplishment?

My proudest work accomplishment was being named Olivet Boys & Girls Club's 2021 Director of the Year. It was an incredibly meaningful recognition because it reflected not just my hard work, but the dedication I put into creating safe, impactful spaces for youth and supporting our staff. That year, I focused on strengthening program quality, building team morale, and deepening relationships with the community. To be acknowledged by leadership and peers in that way was both humbling and motivating; it reminded me why I do this work and inspired me to keep growing and leading with purpose.