

**BOYS**

**MYSTERY**

**AND**

**MAYHEM**

Youth Grant for Excellence  
2006

**Area of Focus**  
**Boys and Reading**

Laura Cundiff - Project Leader

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## Boys, Mystery and Mayhem

With the help of many people in the community and the library staff, the children's room at the Clay Center Public Library has been remodeled. A Castle, new bookshelves, a mural, new carpeting and a new rocking chair has made the room a place where every one wants to play. But it is styled for small people with small steps, and small tables and chairs. The toys are designed for K-3 grade.

There is a group of 8-10 junior high youth that meet at the library after school about every day. (They wait for their parents to pick them up after work). These youth have taken over the children's room and have made it difficult for the small children to be there. Chairs and tables are getting broken because they are not designed for bigger bodies. Play clothes and puzzles are getting misplaced and mistreated by the older ones.

These junior high boys and girls need a place of their own where they can do Home work, read, listen to music and play games their size.

In order to keep the children's room for children, the staff must turn to the youth in the community and provide a place for them to call their own. By creating a room for youth they will have equipment that is designed for their age and interest. The staff will create an advisory group of four ( two girls and two boys) for input on setting up the room and choosing the games and activities. This will give the youth a sense of ownership of the space.

There is a room available downstairs across from the children's room that at one time was used as a kitchen, and later as a store room for cake pans and magazines. With a little help this room could be renovated to accommodate the youth. The "Wildcat

Hangout” would give these youth (boys and girls) a place with age appropriate activities to entertain themselves.

Right now there is a table and chairs in the room that could be used for homework and games. With the windows and lighting already there, it has the potential to be a very inviting place. The door could be shut to keep the noise in and not disturb the rest of the patrons in the library.

The target group would be boys ages ten to seventeen but girls will not be excluded. The staff would like to address the need for boys to read more. Boys are very busy with athletics and find little time to relax and read. By moving the youth books into the “Wildcat Hangout”, they would have an opportunity to see what is available to read.

The staff would get the boys input into the reading material they would like to have. By talking to the boys and posting a suggestion sheet on the bulletin board in the room.

Goals: By creating a place for the youth of the community to do their own thing, the library will draw as many as 10 more youth to the already 8-10 who come regularly now.

The staff would entice the youth to read for pleasure by having attractive displays of new books on interesting subjects. Cars, sports, mysteries, science fiction are a few of the subjects that will attract attention.

The staff would consult with the youth to provide the books and magazines that they would like to read. A part of the budget would be directed to the youth program.

The goal would be to get each youth to read two books during the summer. Using the mystery theme will make this goal intriguing for this age group.

Showing the newest technology in iPod and MP3 players, will give the youth an

opportunity to experiment with downloaded books as well as music. The Library

Systems Offices have several new ways of listening to books. The staff would borrow these to show just how to use them.

The plan is to move the books to shelves that are already in the room. Then move the TV set into the youth room. A DVD player would be added to allow the youth to watch movies that have been checked out from upstairs. The DVD player would allow the use of CD's for music. Adding a donated boom box will also give them a chance to play their music. An X-box 360 gaming set would be purchased to add to the entertainment options. An X-Box was chosen because there is not an internet connection available in the room. Colorful beanbag chairs would replace the wooden oak chairs for a more relaxed and colorful atmosphere.

Preparing the room for the youth hangout. Books and magazines that have been in storage will have to be moved out of the room and the youth books (that are in the children's room now) will need to be moved into the new room. Special display racks would be used to display new and interesting book and books on CDs.

Painting the walls could be done by some of the youth. The orange and black theme (school colors) would be used. Curtains would be made for the windows by a patron. A "wildcat" mascot poster would be made by a local artist to add to the theme of the room.

The youth can put up posters that they bring if they are appropriate. The youth will be responsible to keep the room clean and picked up.

To carry out the Mystery theme of the summer reading program, the staff would plan a mystery night at the "Wildcat Hangout" during the summer. This would consist of a

mystery party where the people attending will try to solve the murder. RVLS systems office has a mystery kit available for check out. This kit contains a mystery in the library party plan. The staff would check out this kit to plan the evening.

There are game tournament nights planned to get the guys to play games in completion to each other.

By offering a variety of formatted materials, the youth will find something that will peek their interest in reading.

Time Line for room: January 15-February 15 Clean room, move books and magazines out of the room.

January 20 Meet with the youth advisory group to plan room and purchase of games and activities.

February 15-28 Paint walls, shelves, and woodwork.

March 1-15 Move youth books in to the newly painted shelves.

March 15-April 1 Write policy and contract for youth room.

April 1 Order four beanbag chairs for seating.

May 1 Consult with consultant before ordering.  
Order x-Box 360 system.

May 15 Meet with the youth advisory group to plan activity Evenings and work on brochure.

June 1-15 Put out brochures at school and other community business that are visited by the youth of the community.

June 15 Have an open house for the community youth and introduce the summer mystery program.

June 23 Have a program on downloading books to MP3 players, IPODs and Books of cassettes.

June 23 thru August 15 Plan game nights with the x-Box games.

July 15 Mystery in the library party.

The staff would target 25 youth with this program. That is about the capacity of the room.

All the staff-Cheryl Green, Laura Cundiff, Sandy Overturf, Susie Koohmairae plus volunteers (Chris Vap and others) will learn the game setup and maintain control of activities in the room.

The room will be open during regular library hours and during special games and activity evenings. Staff will be present at all times when the room is in use. Some of the summer reading budget will be used for this projects extended hours.

The youth using the X-Box will sign a contract stating the conditions of using the game and will check out the games from the circulation desk.

Budget for this program:

This project will require money for the equipment: An X-Box 360 system and two controllers for the amount of \$480. Three games to play on the X-Box will total \$150. Four beanbag chairs for youth will by \$370. These chairs will have covers that can be removed and washed. These expenses are requested from the Nebraska Library Commission. The Clay Center Public Library will pay the following expenses: \$30 for consulting a person with knowledge of the X-Box 360 requirements. \$50 will be used to purchase a DVD player that can be used on the existing TV set for movies and CD music. \$10 will be used for brochures and advertisement. \$10 will buy the paint for the room discounted at the local store. \$150 will be used to pay the staff for extra evening program hours and writing the grant. The total is \$1000 from the Nebraska Library

Commission and \$250 from the Clay Center Public Library.

Evaluation: Success of the program will be measured by the increase number of youth coming to the library.

The statistics of youth book check out will be kept by the staff to see if the room will entice readers.

The staff would expect better behavior and more responsibility from the youth (not breaking furniture and disturbing the children).

The staff would record the number of youth attending the evening activities.

By offering a special hangout and a variety of formatted materials, the youth of this community will discover something that will spark their interest interested in reading.

Signature of Project Director \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Library Director \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Library Board President \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Project Director Jane Clindiff

Signature of Library Director Cheryl Green

Signature of Library Board President Katherine Dubois

Approximate date to begin project:
If awarded a grant I would be willing, if asked, to make a presentation at a state or system youth event or via teleconference.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no

Nebraska Library Commission Youth Grant Program PROPOSED PROJECT BUDGET SPREADSHEET (figures rounded to the nearest whole dollar amount.)			
CATEGORY	Requesting a Youth Grant from the Nebraska Library Commission	LOCAL FUNDS *	TOTAL FUNDS
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>			
Contracted Services**		30	30
Library Materials			
Personnel Costs		150	150
Program Materials/Supplies	150		150
Training			
Equipment <small>x-act</small>	480		480
Computer Equipment (Teen Spaces only) <small>DVL</small>		50	50
Furniture (Teen Spaces only) <small>TVS 200</small>	370		370
Operations & Maintenance			
Promotion		10	10
Other (Please Specify in the Description of program or activities box above)		10	10
<b>Estimated Totals</b>	1000	250	1250
*At minimum, 10% cash match is required as part of the 25% local match.			
**Contracted Services pertain to personnel that are employed outside of the library.			

Signature of Project Director \_\_\_\_\_

1250 x 25% = 312.50



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**Madden NFL 07 Xbox 360**  
Madden returns for the 2007 season.

**ESRB Rating:** Everyone  
**Release Date:** 08/21/2006

NFW

**\$55.82**

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Experience the ultimate in wireless freedom with next-generation precision, speed, and accuracy.

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LEGO Star Wars II: The Original Trilogy has you controlling LEGO versions of the original Star Wars heroes.

**ESRB Rating:** Everyone 10+  
**Release Date:** 09/11/2006

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**Microsoft 20GB Hard Drive Xbox 360**  
Expand your Xbox 360 experience with downloadable content, rip music, and play an array of original Xbox games.

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**Microsoft Wireless Network Adapter Xbox 360**  
The Adapter offers full compatibility for the 802.11a, g, and b protocols for Xbox Live gaming over a wireless network. The Adapter plugs directly into the back of the Xbox 360-no additional wires are necessary, and it's easily hidden from sight. So small, yet so powerful.

**\$99.92**

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**Test Drive Unlimited Xbox 360**  
Test Drive Unlimited is a street racing game that lets you drive licensed cars and motorcycles on 1000 miles of Hawaiian roads and highways.

**ESRB Rating:** Everyone 10+  
**Release Date:** 09/05/2006

NFW

**\$39.82**

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**Dead Rising Xbox 360**  
Dead Rising gives you full control of a shopping center to protect a group of freelance journalists from zombies.

**ESRB Rating:** Mature  
**Release Date:** 06/13/2006

NFW

**\$59.82**

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**NCAA Football 07 Xbox 360**  
NCAA Football returns for the 2007 season.

**ESRB Rating:** Everyone  
**Release Date:** 07/14/2006

**\$55.82**

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**NHL 07 Xbox 360**  
NHL kicks off the 2007 season in this latest entry by

**\$59.82**

Site to Store(SI)