

# Bridging the Gaps



DREXEL UNIVERSITY  
College of  
Medicine

## Summer Camp at Pendora Olivet's Boys and Girls Club

Student Interns: *Ferdinand Anumba, Drexel University College of Medicine*

*Carter Van, Drexel University College of Medicine*

Academic Preceptor: *Holly Metzgar, DO, FACOG, Drexel University College of Medicine at Tower Health*

Community Preceptor: *Jafet Jaime, Olivet's Boys and Girls Club*



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

### COMMUNITY PARTNER

Olivet Boys and Girls Club is an organization that provides education, mentorship, and inclusiveness to youths of underserved communities. Olivet's programs address the region's most pressing and immediate youth issues of education support, afterschool programming and mentoring – all of which is provided by caring and knowledgeable staff. Olivet adheres to the national Boys & Girls Club of America's initiative to help young people between the ages of six and eighteen get a healthy start and enter school ready to perform to the best of their ability cognitively, physically, socially, and emotionally.

### BACKGROUND/CONTEXT

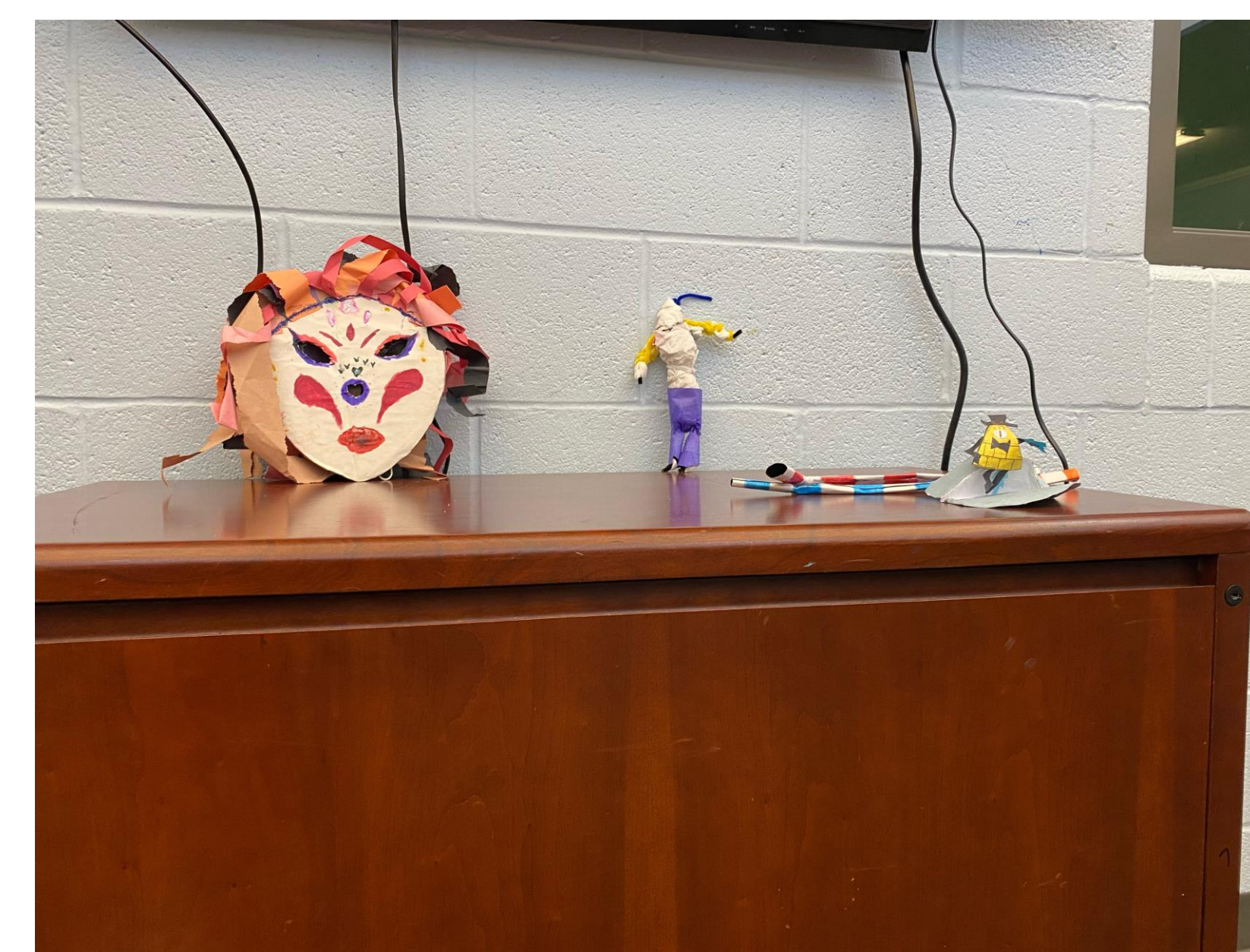
Olivet Boys and Girls Club of America serves children annually from underserved populations. Most of the families of these children are characterized as single-parent households that live below the national poverty line. As a result, they qualify for free or reduced lunch programs and other programs that help children improve emotionally, intellectually, socially, and mentally. Boys and Girls Clubs offer programs that help children grow in these areas. Bridging the Gaps interns collaborated with the Boys and Girls staff to lead the summer camp, thus learning about the social factors that negatively impact patients' health in their communities.

### TEAM'S EXPERIENCE

*We worked with Olivet's Boys and Girls Club, specifically their Pendora site summer camp where we helped educate and mentor youths in Reading, PA. One of our main responsibilities was to assist staff in directing art projects for students which would then be presented at an art show. We mainly worked with 9-to-12-year-olds, making sure they felt free to express themselves in a safe environment. Another aspect of the summer camp was collaborating with club staff to lead kids on trips to museums, camp sites, and science experiments. We established a connection with students, providing guidance as well as enhancing their camp experiences to be more fun and engaging.*

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS/ JOYS

- Enhancing critical thinking skills
- Promoted physical activity
- Fostered interest in creative arts
- Guided educational and recreational excursions
- Helping kids "get out of their shell"



### REFLECTION

**Ferdinand Anumba:** Spending my summer at Boys and Girls club gave me memories that will last a lifetime. My desire to work with Boys and Girls club came from a curiosity to see if working as a Pediatric Physician would be ideal for me. Now I can say that a specialty in Pediatric medicine is an option for me. However, my experiences with the kids created more questions for me. Questions like what factors improve emotional stability in children? How can I motivate kids to do things that aren't interesting at the moment, but will benefit them in future? How can working with children help me to grow as a leader? Each day with the kids at Boys and Girls Club lead to answers to my questions. For example, I realized that the type and duration of attention given to kids helps to dictate their emotional stability. I became aware of how the socioeconomic status of a child's family influences his or her intelligence and mental health.

**Carter Van:** "I was initially nervous about working with a group of kids since I didn't have a lot of experience in that setting, especially kids aged 9-14. However, as the summer progressed, I gained a lot of insight into how to really connect with kids which can really be applied to anyone. As a future healthcare provider, I will need to connect with patients of various backgrounds so the lessons I learned from this internship will especially valuable. I learned the importance of respect which really starts with learning their names. I saw how referring to kids by their names made them so much more receptive to what I was saying since they could tell I made the effort to learn who they were. Another thing that ties into respect is the importance of speaking to them as I would with any other adult and not to "baby" them. I could see that they especially appreciated how I spoke to them with that respect in mind. Lastly, I learned to be patient and understanding. Kids will be kids and it is important to see things from their perspective and try to have conversations with them in order to solve conflicts that they may face. I won't be able to connect with every person I meet right away. I need to realize that patience is key in building a relationship as well as meeting people where they are. Overall, it was rewarding to see the relationship I developed with the kids and how I could help kids overcome their shyness and become more confident and social."