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LETTER:Boys and Girls staff excellent

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Editor:

Several years ago, I became acquainted with the Boys and Girls Club (BGC), first in Paradise, then in Chico.

Before I only knew "about" them . . . which is a world away from actually having an experience with them. Soon after, I was asked by Paradise Unified to take on the Program Director role of our BGC after-school elementary programs, and I gladly accepted.

The first thing I discovered was that the BGC staff were not just about programs, but they also dared to be real human beings. Our conversation was beyond the "business" of the club, but about the lives of the kids and the staff, their good and bad days, joys and challenges. They sought to create a "family" environment with all, including me.

I also discovered that when work needed to be done, the BGC staff would do all they could to lighten my load in order to complete the tasks. If we had to schedule a meeting, they would always offer to come to me rather than ask me come to them. Now at the beginning of 2011, I still look forward to my times with them at any level. They are true servants of our community, and I would trust them with my own grandkids if

I had the chance. Our children are our future; therefore, the BGC are guardians of our future, along with each one of us who choose to treat each other WELL alongside our children, and especially our children - whether in schools, ball fields, churches, stores, neighborhoods, or simply on the streets.

The BGC continue to show me how to

do this over and over again and I am all the richer through their acquaintance.

Jacky Hoiland
Paradise

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