

**Boys & Girls Clubs of America Discover
New Method to Assess and Evaluate After-School Programs**
Clubs in DC, New York, Florida and Rhode Island First to Adopt COMET

ROCHESTER, N.Y., February 19, 2013 — For decades, after-school programs across the country have recorded attendance and performance data about their students. Administrators commonly gleaned some basic information, reported to funders and then tucked the files away in cabinets, storage boxes and drawers, never to be seen again.

But, in recent months, a growing number of progressive Boys & Girls Clubs of America leaders – in the District of Columbia, Florida, New York and Rhode Island – have turned to a novel, web-based technology designed to make their data more useful, leading to new insights about their work and the children they serve.

Born from an unlikely partnership of the internationally-respected, Rochester, N.Y.-based non-profit Children’s Institute and information technology developer SophiTEC, the COMET® system transforms data on attendance, achievement, community indicators and even parent input into what over-extended program managers have been missing: readily-available, relevant intelligence about their clubs.

The result is that children enrolled in these clubs are receiving better support through earlier intervention, individualized attention, and more effective programs, in turn creating stronger communities for today and the future.

“From the first phone call, we knew COMET could be a valuable partner. The team’s enthusiasm for our work and the ways the system could meet our needs was evident,” said Ms. Pandit Wright, president and CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington (D.C.). “COMET associates continue to extend themselves, not just to our systems development team but directly to club staff – our ultimate users and clients. Working together, we are confident that COMET will help us unlock the doors of success for our kids and teens.”

“This is a new application of processes we’ve developed and refined for more than fifty years, working with children, schools and healthcare professionals around the world,” noted A. Dirk Hightower, Ph.D., executive director of Children’s Institute. “Channeling these into the COMET system has opened doorways for other organizations – and the children they serve – to rapidly benefit from our experience combined with sophisticated but easy-to-use technology.”

A Boys & Girls Club version of COMET was first made available in December 2012, and is designed to help clubs meet a national mandate for coordinated data collection with a continued focus on member achievement. In the two months since, it has already been adopted by more than 50 clubs in five states, with more coming on line. For more information, please visit www.COMET4children.com/BGCA.

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