



From the desk of Will Armstead, CEO

September 7, 2022

A+ = Attend today, achieve tomorrow

You may know about our “silent” program, but I’ve learned that many people aren’t aware of our Boys & Girls Club **A+ Attendance Support** Program. Thanks to an annual grant from **Children’s Services Council of St. Lucie County**, our six A+ Attendance Advocates help 1,800 K-8 children every year who have five or more unexcused absences. They work with families and guardians to identify reasons for unexcused absences—reasons as simple as the family can’t afford shoes or clothes for their child, to as complicated as a serious illness, disability or death in the family. A+ Advocates help parents overcome the issues that prevent their child from attending school with counseling, home visits, and referrals to other agencies.



Tina is a smiling success!

Boys & Girls Clubs A+ Attendance Support was notified by her school that 10-year old “Tina” had eight unexcused absences in the first two months of the 2021-2022 school year.

Nancy Borges, A+ Attendance Advocate, made a home visit and discovered Tina and her little brother living with their grandfather. He was in poor health and needed help himself. Borges also discovered that Tina was missing school due to toothaches, and that she and her brother needed shoes that fit and didn’t have holes. It took time and effort, but Borges was able to connect the grandfather with the help he needed; make the children’s DCF manager aware of the home situation; get shoes donated for both kids from the Lil’ Feet organization; and most importantly, get dental care for Tina at the St. Lucie County Hands Clinic. The siblings are now living with another family member and Tina finished the second semester of school with perfect attendance!

Successes like this are what keep me motivated to do even more for kids in our community—Thank you!

