

Chapter 6:

Recreation Programs and Facilities Inventory and Planning

Inventory

Planning



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Facilities

Preschool

The preschool is used daily during the school year to house both the preschool and Kindergarten Extended Time programs. During the summer months the preschool is used to house Sunshine Camp. On weekends year round various early childhood programs and one day special events are held in the building. One full time staff person, the Facilities and Program Manager, responsible for the preschool has an office located here. The building is owned by the Park District.

Clubhouse - Foxford Hills Golf Club

The dining area of the clubhouse at Foxford Hills Golf Club is being slowly integrated into an option as a facility to support various program opportunities. The majority of non-golf related activities may only be scheduled during the off season approximately November to February. Recreation programs held in this space include activities for seniors and teens. The building is owned by the Park District.

Community Center

The Community Center, its rooms and attached spaces, is the main facility that supports the programming and administrative functions of the District. Due to the variety of uses and large diversity of programming located in the Community Center the segments of the Community Center have been divided for discussion.

Rooms

- > Dance/Aerobic – programming is held year round in this space the majority of which is dance, cheer and aerobics related.
- > Nursery – programming is held year round in this space and includes piano lessons, visual arts and child care related opportunities. A number of local community organizations hold meetings and registration days in this space.
- > Multi Purpose – programming is held year round in this space and includes early childhood, art and martial arts related opportunities. A number of local community organizations hold meetings and registration days in this space.
- > Conference – programming is held year round in this space and includes early childhood and yoga opportunities. This is the primary meeting space used by the Board of Commissioners for both their monthly Board and committee meetings. A number of local community organizations hold meetings and registration days in this space.

Racquetball Courts (3)

The racquetball courts are located within the Community Center and account for greatest “spaces” within the facility. These courts are programmed year round and two of the spaces are primarily used in support of racquetball. The other court is used for early childhood programming along with storage of various program supplies. The two courts used primarily for racquetball are also used for martial arts, a basketball court, a walleyball court and a limited number of early childhood programs.

Office Space

A third of the community center is used as dedicated office space and individuals from the Administrative, Operations (recreation and facility maintenance) and Finance divisions of the District are housed there. These include the Executive Director and Administrative Assistant (Administrative); Director of Finance and Personnel, Ass’t Director of Finance, Accountant I, Human Resources/Revenue Billing Specialist and Safety and Risk Manager (Finance); Superintendent of Recreation, Program Manager, Facilities and Program Manager, Registration Coordinator (Operations/Recreation); and Facility Maintenance Manager, Facility Maintenance Specialist (Operations/facility maintenance).

Pool

The pool is attached to the Community Center. A concession stand located within the pool is operated during normal pool hours. The pool facility is used primarily in support of three functions during each season; 1) swim lesson programming; 2) open public swim; and 3) Cary Barracuda Swim Team practices and meets.

Fitness (Cardio/Strength)

There are two rooms, a whirlpool and sauna, that are packaged together and sold as a fitness membership opportunity to the public.

Both the pool and the fitness options share a common locker room and shower facility within the Community Center.

Kraus Senior Center

The Kraus Senior Center is used each week as a meeting place for senior “drop ins” several times per week year round. The Salvation Army run “Golden Diners” program is managed from the site on a daily basis. A range of programming is held at the facility including various adult programs, August Adventures day camp and the Children’s Theatre Company of Cary. The building is owned by the Village of Cary and leased to the Park District on an annual basis with an automatic rollover. The current agreement is set to expire in 2008. One full time staff person, Director of Planning and Development, has an office located here. Two permanent part time staff persons, Extended Time Coordinator and Senior Programming Coordinator, have offices located here.

School District 26

Elementary schools Briargate, Maplewood, Three Oaks, Deer Path and Prairie Hill are used daily during the school year for the before and after school sessions of Extended Time programs. During the summer months Briargate and Maplewood are used as host to the Wannalottafun and Explorers day camp programs. The buildings are all owned by School District 26 and a use of facilities agreement is in place that outlines the District’s use of these sites for the Extended Time programs. The current agreement expires annually each year on December 31st.

“Other” In District Facilities that support Recreational Activities

*Indicates the District is currently partnering or offering programs at these facilities.

*Cary Gymnastics Center

*Lee’s Martial Arts

Gangi Martial Arts & Fitness

Cary Grove Performing Arts Centre

Christian Youth Theater

MVP Baseball & Softball Training Facility

St. Barnabas Lutheran Preschool

Cary United Methodist Preschool

Holy Cross Lutheran Preschool and Kindergarten

Cary Country Preschool

Rocky Raccoon Day Care (& preschool)

Oak Hill Daycare (and preschool)

Kinder-Care Learning Centers, Inc.

Triple R Day Camp

Cardinal Fitness

Cary Jazzercise Fitness Center

Curves

Functional Individual Training, Fit, Inc.

Shapes Women’s Fitness and Wellness Center

Hot Rod Music, Inc.

Less Stress Massage Therapy

Cary Area Public Library District

Children’s Center for Autism

Lake Julian Trout Farm

Chalet Hills

Cary County Club

Programming (See Charts)

Athletics

This segment is mostly year round contractual programming the majority of which takes place at facilities not owned by the District. These activities include gymnastics, Tae Kwon Do and horseback riding. Karate, which is held within the Community Center, is the largest offering for children 6-9 years of age. A large portion of programming opportunity is seasonal in-house softball leagues held in summer and fall and basketball leagues held in fall through winter, both primarily for adults 18-54 years in age.

Performing Arts

This segment encompasses dance and drama, including Children’s Theatre Company of Cary, which is held year round at the Community Center or Senior Center primarily serving 3-13 year olds.

Visual Arts

This segment is hands-on themed programming such as clay play or cartoons held year round at the Community Center or Senior Center primarily serving 6-9 year olds.

General Interest

This segment is a variety of multi-activity year round programming opportunities encompassed largely by the early childhood segment that is held at the Community Center. Programs in this area include Little Sprouts and Twos on Their Own, primarily serving 0-5 year olds and Day Camps and Before & After Camp which are both offered at two school and three Park District sites during the summer primarily serving 3-13 year olds.

Trips

This segment is off-site programming destinations throughout the Chicagoland area. These activities are scheduled throughout the year primarily serving 10-17 year olds and 55 years and older.

Fitness

This segment is aerobic and yoga programs that take place at the Community Center year round primarily serving 18-54 year olds.

Lessons

This segment includes both swim lessons and piano lessons. Swim lessons are held in the summer at the Cary Park District Pool primarily for 3-13 year olds. Piano lessons are held year round at the Community Center primarily for 7-17 year olds.

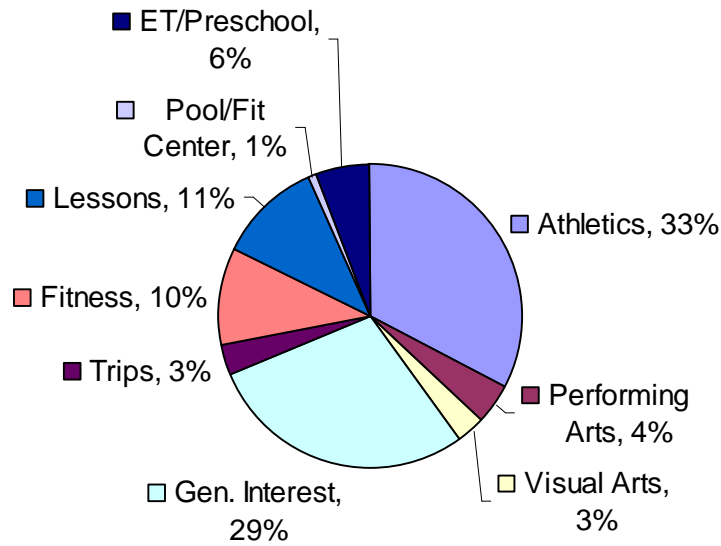
Pool/Fitness Center

Memberships and walk-ins combined from open swim held in the summer at the pool primarily for all age groups and from fitness center year round usage at the Community Center primarily serving 18 year olds and older.

ET/Preschool

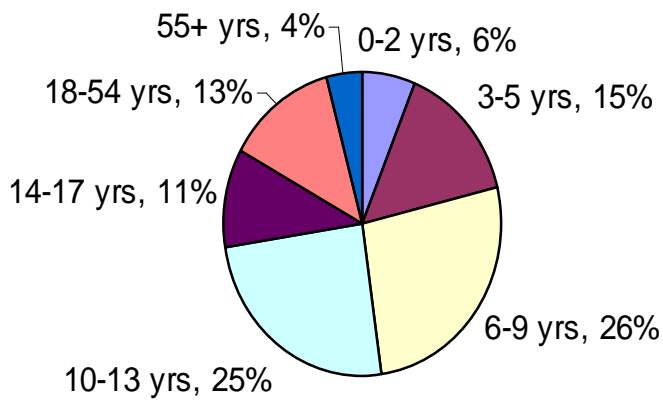
This segment includes the Extended Time before and after school care taking place at five D26 school sites and the Preschool from August through June serving children primarily 6-13 years of age. Preschool is offered September through May for children primarily 3-5 years old.

Program Opportunities by Category as a Percent of Total Opportunities



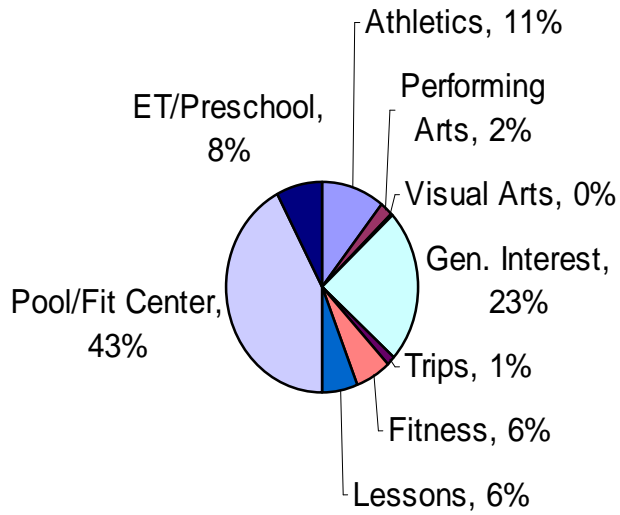
2004 Data

Program Opportunities by Age as a Percent of Total Opportunities



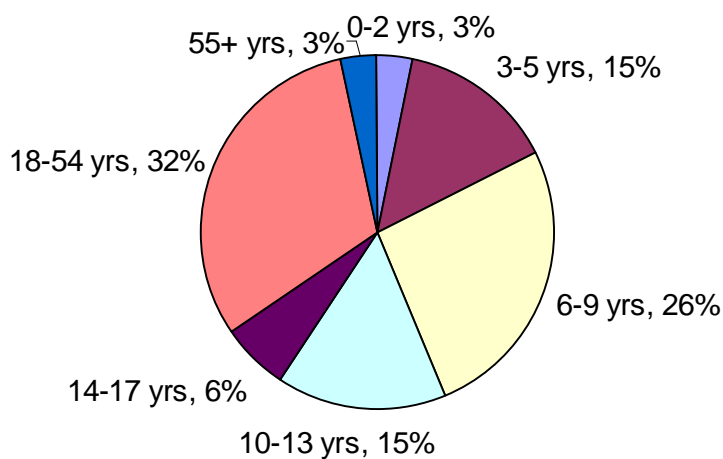
2004 Data

Registrations by Category as a Percent of Total Registrations



2004 Data

Registrations by Age as a Percent of Total Registrations



2004 Data

General Program/Facility Information

*All information is from calendar year 2004.

General Recreation Programming

Children's Theater Company of Cary Performance Attendance (Ticket Sales)⁽¹⁾: 685

Special Event Participation⁽²⁾: 1,850

Total Programs (Sessions) Offered: 1,219

Total "Participations": 165,765

Female vs. Male Registration⁽³⁾: Female-57% Male-43%

Resident vs. Non Resident Registration: Resident-91% Non Resident-9%

Programs (Sessions) Run vs. Cancelled^(4a): Run-68% Cancelled-32%

Programs conducted at PD Facilities/Parks vs. Other^(4b): PD Facilities/Parks-60% Other-40%

Programs-Employee vs. Independent Contractor led^(4c): Employee-56% Independent Contractor-44%

⁽¹⁾ Three performances.

⁽²⁾ Includes Roktoberfest.

⁽³⁾ Includes only programs/facility registration where gender of participants is known.

^(4a/4b/4c) Several contracted programs are presented in multiple session formats and calculated as such when gross information was tabulated; this in turn has caused these percents to show either higher or lower than is likely the case.

Pool

Attendance: 36,428

Walk Ins: 5,024

Passes: 1,864

Foxford Hills Golf Club

Total Rounds Played: 24,900

Lessons: Individual-125 Group-108

Leagues:16

"Other" In District Programming Opportunities and Recreational Activity Providers

Cary-Grove Historical Society

Rotary Club of Cary

Cary-Grove Jaycees

Cary Lions Club

Cary-Grove Newcomers and Neighbors Club

Cary-Grove Area Chamber of Commerce

Character Counts!

Cary Basketball Association

Cary Youth Baseball

Cary Soccer Association

Jr. Trojan Football Association

Cary Barracudas Swim Team

Jr. Trojan Matmen Wrestling

Parks

Lions Park

Lions Park is the most used park as it relates to supporting recreational programming of the District. The vast majority of programs and activities are held during the summer and fall months. These programs and activities include adult softball (spring/summer), t-ball, sports camp, rock climbing, concert series (summer); and adult softball (fall) and Roktoberfest (fall).

Cary-Grove Park

Cary-Grove Park has been used on a limited basis to support recreational programming. Special event hay rides were held at the site in the fall.

Cary Veterans Park

Cary Veterans Park has two tennis courts and recreational tennis lesson programming is offered there during the summer.

“Other” Parks

A number of community groups and organizations provide recreational activities within the District at several of the parks within the District support.

Lions Park

Lions Park is used by the Cary Soccer Association, Cary Youth Baseball and Jr. Trojan Football Association in support of their league games and practices. CSA schedules their activities during the spring and fall; CYB schedules their activities during the summer; and Jr. Trojan Football schedules their activities during the fall.

Kaper Park

Kaper Park is used by the Cary Soccer Association in support of their league games and practices. CSA schedules their activities during the spring and fall.

Cary-Grove Park

Cary-Grove Park is used by the Cary Soccer Association and Jr. Trojan Football association in support of their league games and practices. CSA schedules their activities during the spring and fall and Jr. Trojan schedules their activities during the fall.

Planning

Facilities

Preschool

The preschool is in adequate condition and is meeting the needs of the District at an acceptable level. The interior of the building has had several additions/upgrades in the past five years that include new cabinets, a loft, a closet and a bay window. The exterior of the building is in need of repair and maintenance that will need to be scheduled to occur in the near future. This will include replacement of wood exterior and access doors. The exterior is in need of a paint job. The challenges of this space include the lack of an enclosed kitchen area, entry (staging) space is much too small, the two rooms are not evenly split from a square footage standpoint and all of the participant bathrooms are located in one

room and not the other. The type of uses currently being incorporated into this space is not expected to change in coming years. In the event a multi use recreation facility is built by the District in the future, this aspect of the District's operation should be considered for inclusion within it.

Clubhouse – FHGC

Community Center

With the exception of the Dance/Aerobic room the other programming rooms in the Community Center are merely spaces and not designed nor do they contain support of amenities for the types of programs offered within them. The Dance/Aerobic room is the exception to this as it is specifically designed (wood floor, mirrored walls, sound system) to support dance, aerobic and visual arts programming.

- > Dance/Aerobic
- > Nursery
- > Multi Purpose
- > Conference

In the event a multi use recreation facility is built by the District in the future any current uses of these areas for programming or otherwise should be considered for inclusion within it.

Racquetball Courts (3)

The decline in racquetball participation has been great over the last 20+ years. As such strong consideration should be given to renovation of these spaces to provide the opportunity to meet other District needs.

Office Space

Pool

The pool structure is in adequate condition. It is expected that continued repair and maintenance of the facility will continue over time. In the past five years funds have been expended to replace old piping, remove existing features and upgrade other features. These projects have been undertaken as a result of either a change in the state pool code or the previous pieces being in disrepair. The pool schedule is saturated with use in its current format; it is programmed daily from 5:30am – 8:00pm. Only the reduction or elimination of certain programs or activities would open space in the schedule. Eventually (possibly within five years) the cost to operate and keep up the repair and maintenance of the facility will exceed the revenue it brings in annually. As such it will become a subsidized feature of the District relying on other areas of the District to support its continued operation. Considering this eventuality the District needs to address its intentions with regard to community aquatic offerings in the near future.

Fitness

The fitness spaces adequately serve the needs of the District. An effort to replace and recycle old equipment with new more up to date pieces has been undertaken in recent years. Continued efforts in this area are merited and expected in coming years. In the event a multi use recreation facility is built by the District in the future any current uses of these areas for programming or otherwise should be considered for inclusion within it.

Kraus Senior Center

The Kraus Senior Center adequately serves the needs of the District. The building is more suited for drop in activities or class room style seating program opportunities. Similar to other District facilities this site is merely made up of “spaces” and not made up of spaces with amenities that would better serve and enhance the programs and services offered to residents by the District. A range of District activities are currently held at this site above and beyond the needs of seniors including drama and day camp. In the event a multi use recreation facility is built by the District in the future, at a minimum, the removal of drama and day camp should be considered for removal from this site to a facility better suited to host these activities.

School District 26

The various sites used by the District in support of its programming are expected to continue. The Extended Time program and its location in the various school sites is a natural and meeting a need of the District and its resident very well. Day camp is also held at certain school sites and these sites meet this need adequately. There is a great deal of traveling from the school sites to the Community Center that is necessary during the summer; the elimination of this need due to the future combination of activities is desirable. In the event a multi use recreation facility is built by the District in the future any current uses of these areas for day camp programming should considered for inclusion within it.

Programming (By Segment)

Athletics

Adult athletic team opportunities are the biggest portion of this segment. Growth in these areas from the standpoint of the addition of leagues and teams has been flat to declining over the past five years. Different approaches to these athletic team opportunities should be explored and attempts to restructure existing program formats should be attempted. Youth athletic team opportunities are currently being handled with great success by several volunteer organizations within the District. Should any of these organizations falter or become unstable the District would be wise to either intercede on behalf of the community or pick up the activities if they are dropped.

Performing Arts

Dance and drama encompass the performing arts segment. This segment is hardest affected by a stereotypical comparison that a private studio is of better quality than Park District programming. A promotional strategy to change this mindset should be of consideration. In light of this, dance programs have maintained consistent registration over the years. The long time dedication of our staff is a factor of such. Drama has recently been adversely affected by the lack of auditorium availability for their production schedule. This drawback has not only affected audience attendance but has played a role in decreasing cast sizes over the past year. Any future ability to relocate this program will be of benefit.

Visual Arts

Visual Arts has maintained the lowest District’s registration response over the past few years. To rejuvenate this segment a different direction must be considered including the expansion of our instructor base, exploration of new media, and the infusion of our programming at local school sites after school. Competition is limited in the area with most consideration placed on Young Rembrandts, a private contractor, which has already been successful in providing programs through the school system.

General Interest

This grouping encompasses the widest variety (most diverse) of programs offered by the District. Over the course of time there will be an ebb and flow as to what programs are offered or discontinued in this area.

Trips

For the most part trips have been limited to the senior and teen age populations within the District. This is not unreasonable as both these age groups have a strong desire to “go places” but either cannot or do not want to drive themselves. The offering of group trips to these age groups has had some success. The potential for other governmental bodies to offer similar trip opportunities does exist and some have explored these opportunities. While the same opportunity exists in the teen segment, the same is not true. There is the possibility of expanding trip opportunities into the 6-13 year age category (more like 8-11 year, teen programs are routinely offered to 12 year olds) and the 18-54 year age category, more than likely though on limited basis.

Fitness

Fitness is constructed of adult aerobics and yoga. The introduction of LifeTime Fitness, Shapes, Curves and more recently Cardinal has proven detrimental to this program segment. Further consideration should take place regarding the exploration of a more enticing aerobic and fitness membership package, purchase of aerobic props unique to the area, and ability to multi-program in unison with other segments of interest. The opening of a local private yoga studio in 2004 dramatically decreased our participant base. The District had been able to maintain a working relationship with the yoga studio up until its closing in January, 2006. A prompt evaluation of location sites and instructor availabilities should be explored to rebuild yoga into the popular in-house program it once was.

Lessons

This program grouping basically encompasses two areas, swim and piano lessons. Both of these areas have multiple offerings all of which are well attended and have large participation to available spaces values. Within the District there are several private businesses that offer lesson opportunities notably in the gymnastics, baseball and theater areas. A trend toward more one on one athletic lesson formats for youth and teens may be on the rise the District should consider exploring this area for potential expansion of its lesson program or working cooperatively with local private business to partner in offering programs.

Pool/Fitness Center

These areas are grouped together due to their structure of memberships

Extended Time/Preschool

Extended Time is the most popular program (based upon demand and filling of available spots) that the District offers. Growth of the program is limited to the number of school sites maintained by School District 26; however, there are two private schools operating within Cary and exploring the opportunity to introduce the program there should be undertaken. There is a great deal of competition for the preschool age child; there are seven other preschools currently operating in Cary. It could be stated that more than any other program in the District, it is paramount to update the facility, equipment and recreate the style of the program regularly so as not to be seen as stagnant in the eyes of the community. This is an area, where if this occurs, residents will simply take their business elsewhere. The number of school age and preschool age children in Cary is at or near the all time peak. The District should be mindful of this when making future plans for growth of expansion of these areas.

Programming (By Age)

Under 5 Years

Program opportunities for the under five year age group are amongst the highest Park District programming at 21.2%. These opportunities have seen a registration response totaling 17.8% of all Park District registrations. These figures are produced by the third smallest age population, only above 14-17 and 55 + year olds. Variety of opportunities, quality staff and community interest have brought this programming to the successful level it currently experiences. Focus within this area must be on programming space. Limitations exist with small rooms, minimal equipment storage and lack of vital amenities such as water and bathrooms. The relocation of under five year old programming to better suited locations will enhance program development and result is an even stronger opportunity offering and registration response.

6-9 Years

Program opportunities for the 6-9 year age group represent the largest amongst Park District programming at 26.6%. Opportunities within each program category, excluding trips, are available. The 6-9 year age group holds the highest registrations within lessons, Extended Time, visual arts and general interest programming in comparison to all other age groups. This age group also maintains the strongest opportunities versus registration comparison than any other age group with a .7% difference. The continued expansion of programming will carry this positive registration turnout.

10-13 Years

Program opportunities for the 10-13 year age group represent the second largest amongst Park District programming at 24.6%. Though a high percentage, the registration response is 15.4% of all Park District programming reflecting the largest difference between programming offered compared to registrations received. Most registrations within this section are day camp and pool usage at 66.9% representing a summer dominant season. Focus must be made on expanding areas such as performing arts, visual arts and additional general interest programming during the school year.

14-17 Years

Program opportunities for the 14-17 year age group are the second lowest amongst Park District programming at 10.6%. Opportunities within each program category, excluding ET/Preschool, are available; however, registrations are limited to performing arts, visual arts, general interest and pool. The 6.3% of Park District registrations produced from this age group are primarily composed of pool usage at 95.5%. This leaves 4.5% registrations toward all other programming opportunities reflecting minimal program participation. A difficult program environment exists as this age group is the smallest age population in the community, maintains a desire to do what they want to do; and fluctuates between areas of interest on a regular basis. Focus must be made in connecting with this age group. Regular visits through schools, construction of teen focus groups and visual recognition throughout their scope of social activities must be acquired to increase opportunities and registrations within this area.

18-54 Years

Program opportunities for the 18-54 year age group represent the third lowest at 12.9% yet reflect the highest registration percentage at 31.3% amongst Park District programming. Registrations for adults can be broken primarily into two large segments: adult athletics, aerobics and fitness center usage encompassing 57% and pool usage consuming 37% of the total registrations for the age group. Adult athletics, aerobics and fitness center usage are only available to this age group and represent the largest

factor of their registration success. Focus must be made on expanding program opportunities and increasing registrations within other programming segments including visual arts, performing arts and general interest.

55 Years-Plus

Program opportunities for the 55 year old-plus age group represent the lowest amongst Park District programming at 4.1%. These opportunities are taken from preplanned programming and do not reflect the ability to use the Senior Center as a drop-in facility, a resource that no other age group has available. Many 55 + year old registrations include participation in free programming such as Book Club, Card Party, Glee Club, Craft Club and Bingo. Free programming within this age group produces consistent participation. This in turn produces a smaller separation between opportunities available and registrations accepted in comparison to other age groups. Services and programming for the 55 + year old age group are a subsidized segment of Park District programming. This life enhancing benefit for seniors provides a social outlet which positively impacts lives. To modify the program into a revenue producing entity would only deter participation. The continuation of low cost or free programming especially with a focus on new technology such as computer programs and internet will expand involvement and continue to improve their quality of life.