



Renovations a big hit at Yawkey Club of Roxbury

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The Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston's Roxbury facility was a dark, cramped space three months ago, but now light pours in through the windows and space has been opened up to provide opportunities this fall for 300 new members, including 200 teens.

Renamed in honor of the project's main benefactor, the Yawkey Foundation, the Yawkey Club of Roxbury boasts a new kitchen, for future meal service; a performance center; a new exercise and weight room; and a teens-only area.

"It changes things tremendously," said Ronald E. Carroll, teen director at the Yawkey clubhouse. "The teens have their own space. Before, their room had to go into our rotation schedule."

The new layout gives teens the run of the clubhouse's second level, while younger kids are free to roam the lower half.

In total, the Yawkey clubhouse renovation cost \$8 million. However, membership rates will remain at \$25 a year.

The Yawkey renovation is a positive step forward in the Boys & Girls Clubs' efforts to keep the city's youth safe and off the streets.

This past summer, significant donations from The Boston Foundation and others helped clubs extend hours and provide transportation to members.

The clubs are striving to maintain vigilance this fall despite the lack of additional funds.

The Blue Hills club has committed itself to extended hours at least two Friday nights a month.

Anthony Nicotera, teen advocate and outreach director for Blue Hills, said the funding isn't there, but staff members are willing to make the sacrifice.

"Our staff stepped up and went way above. It's about the kids and the work, it's not about the money," Nicotera said.

Go to www.bgcb.org for more information.