

Club gets \$15K from Gamez Foundation

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Leaders of the Boys and Girls Club South Lake Unit are preparing for the new year with plans for new programs and \$15,000 in grant money.

The Gamez Foundation, an Orlando-based organization founded by golfer Robert Gamez, awarded the grant to the club to help promote education and healthy lifestyles.

"We feel very blessed that they found us and are helping us so significantly in our mission to provide for the kids of South Lake," said Mark Graff, a club board member.

Freddy Williams, the club's newly instated chief executive, said the money will be used to help the club achieve its goals.

"This gives us the resources that are needed to put program materials and support in place to make sure our three priority outcomes come to fruition," Williams said. "We want our kids to be engaged with the community and graduate from high school with plans for the future. Our mission is to help that happen by making sure our programs are in accordance with that."

Foundation president Denise Cullen presented the check last month. She said she believed the foundation's goals were similar to the club's.

"It's one thing to know where the money is going, but to get a chance to see who it is actually going to be effecting is nice," she said.

In its third year, the club, which shares space with the First United Methodist Church in Clermont, provides afterschool care for children.

Club director Tracy Jones said the local club uses programs supported by the Boys and Girls Club of America.

The director is Tracy Jones and the programs taught to the children are part of the national programs as supported by

Williams said the club relies on donations. "No money, no mission."