

# Teen/Parent Survey Results

## 2014 Global Qualitative Metrics Summary

We conducted surveys over the past 18 months directed to teens involved in *Club Beyond* and their parents. This survey is an internal evaluation and management tool with feedback provided from over *2,000 random respondents, 22% of whom had a parent deployed within the last 12 months.* These surveys provide important points for us to consider in evaluating our MCYM performance index, central to our primary strategic objective: *"Healthy subject matter experts providing effective military youth ministry."*

### Military Teens and Their Parents told us:

	Teens	Parents
That <i>Club Beyond</i> involvement is helpful in dealing with the challenges of being a military teen	<b>73%</b>	72%
That <i>Club Beyond</i> involvement makes teens less likely to engage in inappropriate behavior	<b>77%</b>	79%
That <i>Club Beyond</i> involvement helps teens have more hope for the future	<b>80%</b>	76%
That due to their <i>Club Beyond</i> involvement teens are more likely to think about spiritual things	<b>83%</b>	80%
That the personal faith of teens is stronger/deeper because of their <i>Club Beyond</i> involvement	<b>84%</b>	74%
That <i>Club Beyond</i> helps teens to develop stronger/deeper personal relationships	<b>84%</b>	78%
That <i>Club Beyond</i> is important to them	<b>90%</b>	88%

### Summary of Teen Narrative Responses

The vast majority of narrative responses were positive with an impressive breadth and depth of felt impact. In-depth analysis of these responses revealed the greatest felt-impact by teens was in the spiritual dimension of their lives, especially in their personal relationships with God. Positive impacts to friendships and social lives were felt and noted, but of greater importance was the benefit experienced in teens' internal/intellectual lives and also the positive benefits experienced in their lives as a whole. As teens responded in short narrative replies to the question, "How would you describe the impact Club Beyond is having on you?" the areas of greatest felt-impact by military teens were:

- Major/positive impact on their lives
- Closer personal relationship with God
- Greater understanding/perspective on life
- Stronger faith and deeper spiritual growth
- Better friendships and more social opportunities
- Increased awareness/learning about God/the Bible

Across a broader spectrum, other themes emerged covering a variety of issues of critical importance to military teens. Many individual respondents' comments aligned, documenting the following impacts/benefits of *Club Beyond*:

- Personal growth & maturity
- Better person/Christian/student
- A chance to have Fun!!
- Fellowship with other teens
- Toward the good/avoid the bad
- Hope & direction for future
- Feel happier, more calm/stable
- Real help with stress & struggles
- Life-changing impact
- Positive outlook/peer group
- New adventures & opportunities
- Greater trust in others/God
- For a few: A literal life-saver
- Connection to family/community
- Adult mentors & role models
- Increased courage & confidence
- Something to look forward to
- Help in transition to new bases
- Growth in leadership/service
- Better decision-making ability
- Safe place to decompress/vent
- Chapel/community involvement
- Helps me see what's important
- Improved self-image/awareness

The following is a representative sampling of direct quotations from teen's responses, provided in their entirety.

- *"It brings my soul back to the place it should be."*
- *"It is too hard to describe. Club Beyond effects me in so many ways."*
- *"Club Beyond has helped me through my dad's latest two deployments. It has helped to distract me from real life for a few hours every week. It has helped me make new friends and have fun experiences. It has brought me closer to God, and helped me stay spiritual."*
- *"Being new in Alconbury is very hard, and Club Beyond is a good way to help me find friends and hang out with my current friends in a safe environment."*
- *"It literally changed my life."*
- *"It helps me understand how to live life and how to live it for God!"*
- *"I like it and I will join Club Beyond in the next place I move, if they have it there."*

- *"It makes me think . . . a lot."*
- *"I would describe the impact of Club Beyond as a new beginning in life."*
- *"I love Club Beyond & learning about God. I wish I joined sooner & hope there is a Club Beyond in Great Lakes because my dad got orders there & we are moving soon."*
- *"The impact Club Beyond has had on me has made me a better person. When I see a bully I call them out. When someone is unhappy I help them. I feel that without Club Beyond I would probably be in the same spot I was a year ago . . . expelled from school and hating life. Thank you Club Beyond <3" (heart/love emoticon)*
- *"Club Beyond helps me deal with my stress from school and everything else and it allows me to relax a little and take a break from all those things. Although I am not a strongly spiritual person, it gives me the insight about God and helps me understand a bit about him."*
- *"It makes me want to do more service for others."*
- *"Because of Club Beyond, I have not committed suicide or plan to commit suicide ever."*
- *"Well I was a mean person. I didn't want to talk to anyone and kept to myself. I faced challenges that I didn't know I was going to face and challenges I didn't think I ever would face. Club Beyond has helped me with those challenges and continues to do so. Club Beyond has deeply changed my life and I am grateful for this."*
- *"Club Beyond teaches me to walk with God with great examples of what that looks like. I feel more prepared going to college and less anxious about making mistakes after being involved with Club (Beyond)."*
- *"i have only been part of club beyond for 3 weeks but it is cool. i enjoy being able to have more to understand as far as religion goes. i don't have a religion because i was raised to make my own decisions but learning about christ and such is very interesting to me."*
- *"So far, just makes me feel good about myself. Can't wait for more!!!"*
- *"It helped me realize that I am important in this life. It gave me a family I desperately needed."*
- *"Club Beyond showed me Jesus. Jesus is my life. So Club Beyond showed me life. Life worth living."*

### **Summary of Parental Narrative Responses**

The storyline formed by teen and parent responses is that while teens are reporting significant spiritual renewal and growth on the inside, parents see the positive impacts on their teens' lives on the outside. Parents viewed the spiritual and social impacts to their teens as roughly even, while teens reported the spiritual impact as roughly three-times greater than the social benefits! Parents also experienced benefits to their family life overall and to their family's and teen's resiliency specifically. General themes emerging from the parental responses were:

- Significant spiritual growth of teens
- Greater desire for doing service projects
- Reinforcement of lessons taught in the home
- Vast majority reported positive impact on teens
- Helps in transition to new duty stations (bases)
- Positive view of the impact on their teen's future
- Acknowledged own need for outside help & support
- Gratefulness for provision of a safe & fun environment

The following is a representative sampling of direct quotations (provided in their entirety) from parental responses to the question, "How would you describe the impact Club Beyond is having on your teen?"

- *"A solid foundation in a very unstable environment, which is life as a child of a soldier."*
- *"Positive. Connects them with other kids and creates a supportive environment for them to thrive in."*
- *"In addition to the above mentioned topics, Club Beyond positively impacts my son's resiliency and transitions, as life is changed by their dad's military service."*
- *"On our overseas base, there is very little for the teens to do. Club Beyond gives them an avenue to participate in positive life activities. Keeps them out of trouble."*
- *"I am very pleased with the guidance and direction Club (Beyond) gives my children."*
- *"Club Beyond is a great club for my son to participate in because the club deals with teen issues that he doesn't always want to talk to me about. And it's a warm and positive environment."*
- *"Club Beyond has been such a blessing in my daughter's life. She loves the encouragement and friendships she has made. I like knowing there is a nice group of people on her side."*
- *"Wonderful Impact. I'm a Navy Chief and travel all over Africa to Togo, Benin, Ghana, Liberia, Malawi, & Cameroon planning projects for Active Duty Seabees. Club Beyond is a wonderful way for my two (2) sons to learn great ethics and the Bible. Thank you so, so much for being there when I could not. V/r Chief (name)"*
- *"Club Beyond has had a positive impact on my child. I would have to say that it's been life changing."*
- *"It is helping her develop her social skills being a child on the autism spectrum."*
- *"You all have supported our family faith journey, have given my kids a safe social environment, I have watched my oldest mature through having experiences with Club, like service project. We are very grateful as a family that Club Beyond has been at our overseas installation."*
- *"Words cannot describe how appreciative we are for this ministry and their wonderful leaders."*