

Fort Oglethorpe Kiwanis met on May 19 at Park Place Restaurant with 10 members and 2 guests

Program:

John Donahue (YMCA) and Ben Bolden (Performance Learning Center) spoke about LINK@theY, a program for at-risk kids ages 11-17 in Catoosa County. The goal is to provide a safe space for the kids to go to after school, 4 days a week, from 3 pm to 6 pm. Dinner will be served. The kids will be bused to the Y and then home. The pilot group is the Gateway class at the PLC. These are kids that have already been expelled from county schools.

There will be mentors and counselors, as well as tutors and volunteers, available for the kids. A representative from the Department of Juvenile Justice will be on site to do probation check-ins. There will be learning opportunities presented to prepare the kids for a more productive life.

They need money. The estimated cost to start and maintain the program for 1 year is \$40,000. They have a fundraising dinner planned for the end of July. The money will support things including but not limited to bus drivers, paid staff, food, activities, and facilities upkeep.

Thank you to Nicole for reporting