

ROUND VALLEY — Every year Boys and Girls Club of Round Valley spends about \$120,000 on operating costs, creating \$1.152 million in economic benefits to youth, families and the community.

The local club has been serving the youth who need it the most for almost five years. By providing programs that focus on academic success, good character and citizenship and healthy lifestyles, it has helped young people achieve the great futures they deserve.

A newly commissioned study by Boys and Girls Clubs of America found that clubs are a sound investment, providing nearly \$10 in benefits to the community for every dollar invested.

The study, conducted by the Institute for Social Research and the School of Public Health at the University of Michigan, found that every dollar invested in Boys and Girls Clubs returns \$9.60 in current and future earnings, as well as cost-savings, to American communities.

The biggest benefits are from club members' improved grades and reduced alcohol use and their parents' earnings. Collectively, clubs spend \$1.4 billion annually on operating costs, resulting in \$13.8 billion in lifetime benefits to youth, families and society.

The study is the first national return on investment estimate for Boys and Girls Clubs. Researchers made use of newly available youth outcomes data, collected through surveys of club members across the country, to examine how the costs required to provide club programming compare to the long-term benefits for youth and families in economic terms.

The study indicates that Boys and Girls Club services and programs produce “tremendous value” for youth, families and their communities. Clubs help increase the earning power of parents, as well as of youth when they become adults, the study reported.

The club also contributes to major savings for society by helping to prevent costly expenditures for health care, public assistance programs and criminal justice system involvement and incarceration, it noted.

“We were thrilled, but not surprised, to receive the results of this study. We have long known how valuable clubs are to our community, but it’s great to have independent confirmation of the benefits clubs provide, not only to young people, but to their parents and the community as well,” said Suzanne Kammerman, director and CEO of Boys and Girls Club of Round Valley.

For more information, visit www.RVBGC.com or contact Kammerman at director@rvbgc.com or 928-333-7824.