

YMCA of Western North Carolina

The [YMCA of Western North Carolina](#) used Ribbon of Hope funds to create an after-school program in a high-risk middle school in partnership with Buncombe County Schools. A total of 84 students participated in 18 unique enrichment activities throughout the year. NCWise student database grade reports indicate that 88% of participants improved course grades in at least one of the four core academic areas (math, reading, social studies or science). Teacher survey data indicate that approximately 63% of program participants were more likely to turn in homework on time, complete homework, pay attention in class, and participate in class. Students participating in the program showed an overall gain in 89% of Developmental Assets[®], which identifies life skills, experiences, relationships, and behaviors that enable young people to develop into successful and contributing adults, such as positive increases in feeling valued by the community, feeling safe at school, and having positive role models.