

By: CAREY JOHNSON,  
Times Staff Writer

Months after announcing financial struggles, the Boys and Girls Club in Franklin County will be getting a boost in spirits and funds through a talent show this Saturday.

Dedrick Williams and Terrance Alston have been working to launch a clothing line, Ambitious Rebirth by Nightmare Entertainment, and while doing so, Williams has served as an activity leader at the Boys and Girls Club site in Louisburg.

In that capacity, he has seen first hand the needs of this community's youth.

Figuring it would be a good opportunity to generate interest in the clothing line and help the club, both entities have organized the talent show.

And they secured the talents of K 97.5 radio personality Wade Banner to serve as host.

“As an activity leader,” Williams said, “I see the need.

“We have very limited supplies,” he said.

“... We want to generate money for games, for the art room and for the computer area,” Williams said. “We want to keep the Boys and Girls Club open because there are not a lot of places for kids to go.”

In the spring, Boys and Girls Club Executive Director Jerome Levisy announced that the club had experienced dwindling financial support from donors.

If that continues, the club will face some tough decisions about staffing, hours and the ability to take on new children.

There are about 100 children in Franklin County that take advantage of the club, which provides them with a chance to get help with homework after school, learn health and life skills, get involved with arts and crafts, take part in fitness and recreation activities, and develop character and leadership traits.

Those are the main reasons that Banner agreed to be part of the talent show and fundraiser.

“This event is important to me because the children are our future,” he said. “I want to inspire people to shoot

for success at a young age and that's what the Boys and Girls Club is all about.

"I have always been a supporter of the Boys and Girls Club," he said. "Over the years, I have been a part of many initiatives with pro athletes and other radio personalities to speak with and encourage the youth.

The talent show will feature performers in a variety of disciplines, dancing, to singing to poetry.

"There will be all kinds of talent from our group, as well as local talent," Williams said. "They will get to show off what they can do and have a good time."

Admission is \$5 for the 6 p.m. event and each person will receive a raffle ticket, good for a chance to win a backpack stocked with school supplies.

Anyone interested in donating supplies, or getting more information about the fundraiser is asked to call Williams at (919) 720-1528, or (919) 853-9957; or Jaleesa Edwards at (413) 276-3025.

The talent show will take place at the club's site in  
Louisburg on 53 West River Road, in front of the Franklin  
County school system's Central Office.