



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF PAWTUCKET**

THE CLUB CONNECTION: WINTER 2021

HALLOWEEN WAS NOT CANCELED

Despite the many restrictions that we faced during the school year, our staff worked hard to ensure our members could enjoy their daily routines and yearly traditions, even if they looked a little different. Halloween was no exception! The day before, members were invited to dress up and participate in themed activities, such as crafts and games. But it would not be Halloween without treats; staff safely distributed gift bags with candy and other goodies for each member to enjoy.



Thanks to **Stop & Shop**, the **Pawtucket Red Sox**, and the **City of Pawtucket**, we were able to provide a drive-thru Halloween experience to thousands of children in the cities of Pawtucket and Central Falls. Hosted at McCoy Stadium on Halloween Day, families were welcomed to trick or treat and show off their costumes from the safety of their vehicles. Special thanks to Stop & Shop, who generously donated all of the candy and healthy snacks to fill 2,500 bags!

We would not have been able to have a successful event without our community partners who helped us assemble the Halloween bags on Friday leading up to the event. Employees from **Bristol County Savings Bank**, **Hasbro**, **Navigant Credit Union**, and **Pawtucket Credit Union** volunteered their time to package all of the bags at our Clubhouse.



With 2020 bringing much uncertainty, we came together to offer comfort, nourishment, and fun for local kids and their families. It is a testament to the strength of our partnership and our shared commitment in being there for our communities.

Maria Fruci, Stop & Shop

2020 PARTNER IN PHILANTHROPY

We were honored to recognize long-time Club supporter, Leon Boghossian III as our Partner in Philanthropy for 2020 through AFP-RI. Leon has served on the Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket's Board of Directors for nine years and has been a trustee since 1996. For decades, Leon has been a wonderful advocate for our Club and we are so grateful for his continued leadership. Thank you, Leon, for all you do for our members!



COMMUNITY PARTNERS HELP US CONTINUE YEARLY TRADITIONS

Over the past year, food security has become more important than ever before. Each year, **Stop & Shop** generously donates more than 1,000 Thanksgiving turkeys with all the fixings to the six Boys & Girls Clubs throughout Rhode Island, a tradition we have done for the last 15 years. While things may have looked different, we were still able to celebrate our annual Turkey Express event at the Stop & Shop in Pawtucket. Thank you so much to Shop & Shop for being a loyal partner and for donating over 1,400 Thanksgiving meals this year to Club families across Rhode Island, we could not be more thankful!



Special thanks to the team at **TW Financial Group** who help us pack the Thanksgiving meals to distribute to our families every year.



This year [2020] has been extremely difficult for many in our community, including our Club families. That is why we couldn't be more appreciative of the support of Chelo's for helping us fill this void and provide a hearty Thanksgiving meal to our families.

Amy Chaunt

Director of Development & Community Relations

Each year, the Club hosts an Annual Thanksgiving Dinner. We invite all Club families to enjoy a hot delicious meal and to spend time with family and friends at our Clubhouse. This is a tradition that we look forward to every fall. Unfortunately, with the COVID-19 restrictions in place during November 2020, we were unable to safely host our event. Thanks to our friends at Chelo's of Rumford, RI, we were able to safely serve our families with a curbside Thanksgiving event. **Chelo's Hometown Bar & Grill** generously donated 300 hot Thanksgiving meals to our Club families, ensuring that they were able to receive a hearty meal this holiday season.

In addition to their generous donation of more than 2,000 toys and games during the holiday season, employees from Hasbro supported 10 Club families through our Adopt-a-Family program. Thank you, **Hasbro!**



BASEKETBALL RETURNS FOR THE 2021 SEASON

After a season that was unexpectedly cut short last year, we were thrilled to welcome our basketball players back on the court. Our traditional basketball leagues certainly looked different this season, but that didn't discourage our players. "I was happy to have a place to practice what I love again and to see friends that I haven't been able to hang out with," said a teen member. Huge shout out to our athletic program staff for putting our members first and creating a fun and safe environment for our athletes.

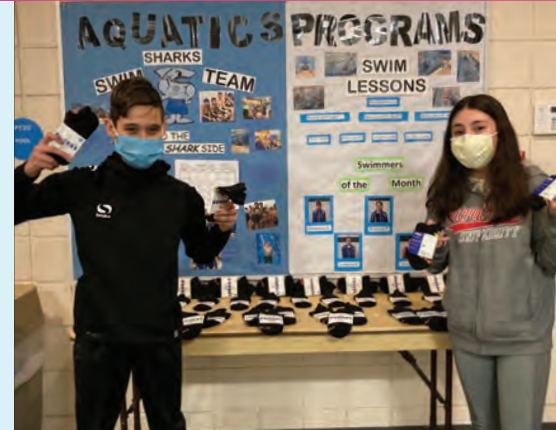
SUPPORTING OUR MEMBERS THROUGHOUT THE WINTER MONTHS



In the fall, we welcomed pre-teen members to our Full Day Childcare Program, a safe space for them to socialize with peers and complete their distance learning curriculum. This was the first time since our inception that we offered a full-day program, and our staff quickly adapted to meet the needs of our members. In addition to supporting students throughout their distance learning day, we made it a priority to deliver enriching hands-on activities and interactive experiences to respond to the learning losses that students are facing in this virtual landscape.

“The structured environment the Club provides – between scheduled pickups, routine cleaning, open communication – I felt very safe sending my son to the Club and he wanted to be there. He was bored on his own and I felt terrible that I couldn’t give him all the attention he deserved because of my work,” said Amanda, whose son attends the Club’s full-day program. Amanda described the Club as a ‘saving grace’ for their family and she is relieved that her son was able to experience a sense of normalcy.

While 2020 was been a trying year, we are so appreciative of our community for continuing to help our families. We worked with our partners and donors to collect new and gently used winter items for our members during the fall months to distribute once the winter weather arrived. Because of the donations received, we were able to host a Winter Drive and provide more than 20 families with clothing to keep them warm all winter. This would not have been possible without the support from the **Pawtucket School Department, Old Navy (North Attleboro), The Rhody Hen Cafe, Quota International, Inc (Pawtucket), Park Place Congregational Church, the Delaney-St. Teresa Knights of Columbus Council #57,** and the many donors who donated winter items.



A BRIGHT ENDING TO A CHALLENGING YEAR

When we thought we had seen it all, we were amazed at how our community really stepped up to support our members and their families! Last year we were so grateful for the continued outpour of support we received from our community. During our annual Adopt-a-Family program, this overwhelming generosity continued, and we were able to provide 44 families with a memorable holiday season. This was the most families our Club has ever been able to support through this program. We cannot thank our donors, friends- both new and old, corporate partners, and our community enough for doing whatever it takes to help us to continue to serve the youth who rely on our Club the most. Whether big or small, your contribution helped make the holiday season bright for so many of our families.

CONTINUING MEANINGFUL PARTNERSHIPS

Over the years we have partnered with **Art Connection-RI** to provide our members with creative and engaging programs. We were excited to continue this partnership safely by providing our members with a virtual art class. Available to members in grades 1-4, participants created collages that represented the positive experiences they have encountered during 2020. We are looking forward to continuing our partnership with Art Connection-RI.





Meet Daniel Gamm

Q.) How did you get involved with the Club?

A.) I got involved with the Club over 10 years ago. My company and our clients volunteer every year at the Turkey Express event.

Q.) What compelled you to join the board?

A.) Helping is a passion of mine, whether it's at work with my team and our clients, at home as a father and husband, or in the community. Over the years, I have built great relationships with the Club and wanted to be able to do more. I love the Mission of the Club and the work that it does.



Meet Diana Ditto

Q.) How did you get involved with the Club?

A.) My employer, Collette, had volunteered on several occasions at the Club and I always enjoyed participating in those events. It was exciting to see the incredible work being done within our local community, and the members of the Club team were so excited and proud to tell us about all the amazing opportunities for children the Club affords.

Q.) 2. What do you hope to accomplish in your role at the Club?

A.) I hope to use my background in branding and marketing to help promote outside engagement and bring increased awareness to the incredible works its doing in the community.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS ONTO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In November we hosted our 120th Annual Meeting virtually, reviewing last year's accomplishments and welcoming two new board members. We were excited to welcome Daniel Gamm and Diana Ditto to the Club's Board of Directors.

CAMP RAMSBOTTOM IS BACK

We can't wait for summer, can you?! We are excited to welcome our campers back for the 2021 camp season. Families and campers can expect adventure, learning, sports, and of course FUN when they register for one of four sessions at Camp Ramsbottom.

Our goal is to keep campers and staff happy, healthy, and safe throughout the summer. Some of our updated procedures include: stable pods, requiring face coverings, frequent hand washing, increased sanitation, and much more. Additionally, we have limited our capacity and will only be accepting 450 campers per session. Registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis. To learn more about how we are adhering to the COVID-19 Guiding Principles and to register, please visit our website: www.bgcpawt.org



Your donations make all of this possible.

To learn how to make an investment in the Club, in our youth, and in the future of our community, please visit our website at www.bgcpawt.org. We we come your support through individual donations, a corporate gift, or with an eye to the future through a planned gift.

For more information, please contact **Amy Chaunt**, *Director of Development & Community Relations*, at achaunt@bgcpawt.org or 401-722-8840 x 816.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket is to inspire and enable the young people of Pawtucket and surrounding communities, especially those with greatest need, to realize their full potential as healthy, productive, responsible and caring citizens.

To keep up-to-date with all of our programs and activities, please follow us on social media!



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