

# THE CLUB CONNECTION

WINTER 2023 - Quarterly Newsletter of the Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket

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## JOIN US FOR OPENING DOORS 2023

We are excited to announce that our 11th Annual Opening Doors celebration will be held at Camp Ramsbottom on the evening of Thursday, June 15th. Our 10th Annual celebration last year was held at Camp for the first time, and the response we received from attendees was so overwhelmingly positive that we have decided to host the event at Camp again this year.



The attire will be "Camp Casual," and guests will have the opportunity to take a tour, sample food from several food trucks, and enjoy local beers and wines. We will also be honoring several of our longtime partners and volunteers. It is sure to be an incredible night, so keep your eyes out for the save the date!

## MEMBER SUCCESS STORY

**Leonardo, age 6:**

Leonardo came into the building for the first time with expectations of having a negative experience like he had in another after-school program. Our pre-teen staff went to work quickly, getting to know him and his triggers, and learning more about behavioral strategies that are used in his home.

Leonardo is now a wonderful helper. He has a watch and helps keep things running smoothly, helping the staff set up and cleanup activities. When he gets frustrated, he's learned to put his hands in his pockets and step away to calm himself down and process his feelings. He always gets his homework done and participates in lots of different activities. He is smiling and truly enjoying himself. He is on route to be member of the year!



## CAMP RAMSBOTTOM IS BACK FOR ANOTHER FUN FILLED SUMMER!

It might still be February, but summertime is right around the corner, and here at the Club, that means the start of CAMP! Camp Ramsbottom registration for summer 2023 opens on March 1. Located in Rehoboth, MA, Camp Ramsbottom features 160 acres of summertime fun. Summer programs at Camp are offered to youth ages 6-13, and run from June through August in four two-week sessions.

Camp Ramsbottom boasts everything you might want in a summer camp, including: an adventure course, archery, arts & crafts, basketball, fishing, hiking, mini-golf, bunnies and goats, soccer, swimming, tennis, and much more, all led by caring and professional staff. 6-8-year-old campers are assigned a group to be with all day – they will be able to go to all age appropriate activities within their 2-week session. For Campers ages 9-13, they have the option to either explore Camp independently, checking in with their assigned counselor periodically throughout the day, or be assigned to a group of other children their age. Haven't been before? Make sure to stop by Camp on one of our Sneak Peek Saturdays from May 6 – June 17th, from 10 am. – 2 pm.



Everyone had a great time, and we can't get over how great our spaces look now with this fun and inspiring artwork! We are hosting an official unveiling for team members from Stop & Shop, our Board of Directors, and the parents and families of our talented young artists!



## DICK'S SPORTING GOODS "SHOP WITH A PATRIOT!"

Ten of our lucky Club members and flag football participants were treated to a holiday shopping spree sponsored by DICK'S Sporting Goods and New England Patriots Tight End, Jonnu Smith! They were also treated to a catered dinner.

We cannot begin to express how thankful we are to have been able to give our members this absolutely incredible, once in a lifetime experience. The whole bus ride home we kept hearing cheers of "BEST DAY EVER!" Thank you so much to DICK'S, Jonnu, and Dan LaBreck, Community Marketing Manager at DICK'S, for putting this event together and creating some amazing childhood memories.

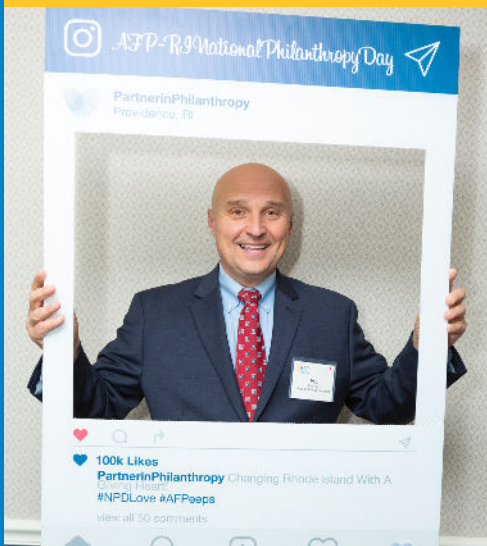


## PARTNER IN PHILANTHROPY

We were so honored to attend AFP - Rhode Island Chapter's 2022 National Philanthropy Day celebration in November at The Graduate in Providence. We were able to recognize one of our Board Members, Paul Pinto, as our Club's 2022 Partner in Philanthropy!

Paul has been involved with our Club's Board since 2011, beginning his service as a trustee and then joining our Board of Directors in 2014.

He also sits on both the Technology Committee and the Major Gifts Committee. Paul spent his childhood here at the Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket and knows how valuable our programs are to local youth. Thank you, Paul, for all that you do for our Club!



## STOP & SHOP MURAL

Our wonderful partners at Stop & Shop have been "cooking up" something super special for us here at the Club for the last few months! They designed some incredible mural art for our dining space outside our kitchen and in our Teen Center! The best part? Some of our talented young artists got the opportunity to participate!



## ANNUAL MEETING

In November we hosted our 122nd Annual Meeting at the Pawtucket Country Club. We recognized several Board members, Trustees, and staff for their amazing commitment to serving youth in our community. We were fortunate to welcome two new Board members, Linda Weisinger and Harriet Holder, as well as new Trustees. During the meeting, we welcomed Joe Fleming as the next president of the Club's Board of Directors. Joe is an alum of the Club and has supported our efforts for decades. He was even our 1973 Youth of the Year!

We want to also take this time to thank Kris Lyons for everything she has done for the Club during her tenure as President. Kris - a Club alum - was the first female president of the board and was instrumental in helping the Club navigate during the pandemic. Thank you, Kris for all that you did for our kids and families!

None of this would have been possible without the generous donations from Stop & Shop, as well as the many volunteers who came to help pack goodie bags and decorate. Thank you Hasbro, Navigant Credit Union, Collette, TW Financial Group, Bank of America, Amica Insurance, BankRI, Bristol County Savings Bank, and Coastal1 Credit Union. Thank you all for helping make sure our kids had the best Halloween ever!



## Giving Tuesday

We are so thankful for the incredible support we have received this year from friends of the Club. This Giving Tuesday, our kids gave back to the community! Our pre-teen members stopped by the Pawtucket Fire Department and delivered handmade thank you cards, along with tasty treats for the firefighters to enjoy. Our



teen members hand delivered artwork that they created to the Pawtucket Police Department, and members of the Club's Aquatics Program helped beautify Club grounds by raking leaves and removing debris.

## Turkey Express

For the past 16 years, our friends at Stop & Shop have provided thousands of Club families across Rhode Island with a Thanksgiving turkey and all of the fixings.

A sincere thank you to the whole team at Stop & Shop, and all of the volunteers who came out to help move thousands of pounds of food in record time.

Back at our Clubhouse the wonderful team from TW Financial Group packed bags full all of the fixings for a delicious Thanksgiving meal. Then our Club staff members distributed the meals and turkeys to our Club families.



Thank you so much to everyone for working hard to unload, pack, and distribute everything in order to make sure all of our families had a wonderful Thanksgiving!

## Member Thanksgiving Dinner

We were excited to host our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner for our members again this year, and this time, for the first time since 2019, we were able to invite our members families to join them! Our wonderful staff took part in the festivities by decorating our Clubhouse and serving the delicious Thanksgiving meal with all the fixings! It was so great seeing all the families, members and staff come together to share a meal.



## HOLIDAY SEASON ROUNDUP

### Halloween

On Halloween our partners had a great time turning our Club into the spookiest Halloween bash ever and our members and their families absolutely loved every minute of it! We had all sorts of fun activities for the kids, including dancing, arts & crafts, pumpkin painting, an ice cream bar, and more. Each child got to leave with their own goodie bag, full of yummy treats.



## Toys for Tots Bike Donation

We are so so thankful to the Marine's Toys for Tots Foundation for the donation of 89 bikes for our members! Just before we closed for the holidays, we had Santa come visit with the children at the Club, each child had the opportunity to pick out a toy, game, thanks to our friends at Hasbro, and if they needed a bike, they could take one home with them.

We are so happy that we were able to pass out ALL of the bikes, the smiles on our member's faces when they realized they were getting a brand new bike were absolutely priceless. Thank you so much for giving so many children such an incredible holiday!



through Giving Tree programs hosted at multiple local businesses. Thank you so much to everyone who was involved in making this such a remarkable holiday season.

## Holiday Celebration For Our Members

We were so lucky to be joined last month by Santa, his helper Buddy the Elf, and someone special who really stole the show and all of our hearts, K9 Watson - Pawtucket Police Therapy Dog. Santa and his friends, including our own new Board President, Joe Fleming, were on hand to help distribute gifts to our members. Many of our members even got to go home with the brand new bicycles Toys for Tots donated.

We are so thankful for the many donors, staff, and volunteers who have truly made this the best holiday season ever. We saw many faces light up with so much joy this season.



## The Most Successful Adopt-a-Family Ever!

This Holiday Season, over 100 donors supported 58 families through our Adopt-a-Family Program. With growing support each year, 2022 marks the most families our Club has ever supported through our Adopt-A-Family program. All contributions, big or small, played a role in creating holiday magic for our members. We also received outpouring support for Club families



## MEET A NEW BOARD MEMBER!



### MEET HARRIET HOLDER!

**How did you get involved with the Club?**

I became a member of the Club while in high school at St. Rays. I used to walk down the hill at the end of my school day when the Club was in downtown Pawtucket. I quickly fell in love with the programs and joined many groups like the Keystone Club.

I was named the Youth of the Year and experienced my first opportunity to fly in an airplane when it was time to represent the Club in New York- such a memorable experience for me. The Club truly has been a part of the DNA that has helped shape the woman that I am today!

## What compelled you to join the board?

I served as a trustee for several years before being asked to consider serving on the Board. It was an instant yes for me! I love everything that the Boys and Girls Club stands for and would be honored to help it continue to grow and meet the needs of the children and families within the community.

## What is your favorite activity to do with your family?

My family and I enjoy traveling; whether by land or sky! We enjoy visiting new places, meeting new people and expanding our understanding of different cultures and enjoying the beauty of our world!

**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF PAWTUCKET**  
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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 [bgcpawt.org](http://bgcpawt.org) or scan the QR code above. We welcome your support through individual donations or a corporate gift.

For more information, please contact **Amy Gonsalves, Director of Development & Communications**, at [achaunt@bgcpawt.org](mailto:achaunt@bgcpawt.org) or 401-722-8840 x 816.