

THE CLUB CONNECTION

FALL 2022 - Quarterly Newsletter of the Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket

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Success!

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OPENING DOORS 2022

Our 10th Annual Opening Doors celebration, held for the very first time at our 160-acre summer camp, Camp Ramsbottom, was our most successful event to date! We had an incredible turn out, beautiful weather, AMAZING food from Fire Wagon Pizza Co, Ming's Asian Street Food, The Rhody Hen Cafe, and Palagis Ice Cream.

We were able to award some of our longtime supporters and volunteers, Mark Giorgio of Boston Scientific, who was awarded our Volunteer of the Year award, Hasbro, recipient of our Corporate Community Partner Award, and Leon C. Boghossian, III, Esq., recipient of our Lyman B. Goff Founders Award.



Our partnership with these award winners has enabled our Club to support our youth in new and exciting ways. We also had the chance to hear from Camp and Club families, and attendees were able to take tours of our beautiful Camp. We hope that sharing our wonderful Camp with you all each year will become a new tradition. Looking forward to seeing everyone again at our next Opening Doors celebration!

SUMMER 2022 PROGRAM ROUNDUP!

The Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket had an absolutely unforgettable summer. Between our Camp Ramsbottom programming, Teen programming, and our summer athletics, this summer was truly one for the books.

Camp Ramsbottom

Children and staff from several communities across Rhode Island and south eastern Massachusetts came together to have a fantastic summer at Camp Ramsbottom! We all had so much fun, made many



new friends, and tried all sorts of new activities. We were able to have 1,420 local children spend their summer with us at Camp and were able to provide 230 incredible summer experiences to local children who otherwise would not have been able to attend Camp.

We spent the last several months expanding Camp Ramsbottom - we purchased the adjacent property, which has allowed us to extend our parking lot and re-route the traffic for busses and families dropping off their campers. The new entrance has made an easier in and out for campers and their families,



and the Camp entrance is now much more visible from the road. We have a local artisan who has created an incredible new Camp Ramsbottom sculpture to greet everyone who comes to Camp for many generations.

With the help of some of our friends in the community, we were able to provide a number of campers with brand new backpacks stocked with camp essentials, so that they have everything they need to guarantee a successful, healthy camp season!



Teen Summer Program



For our teen members, we were so excited to provide them with a fun filled Teen Summer Program here at the Club. They had several different

opportunities each day to decide how to spend their time, from basketball league, dance and guitar classes, games, cooking, gardening, field trips, swimming, visits from the Roger Williams ZooMobile, college tours, and more. When surveyed at the end of the program, 100% of the Teen Summer Program participants stated that they had made new friendships while participating in the program.

Aquatics

We are incredibly grateful to our wonderful swim staff, because of their hard work and dedication we are proud to have a thriving year-round aquatics program. This summer we had 39 children learn how to swim at the Club, 8 of those received full scholarships so they could learn to swim at no cost to their families.

Baseball

Our RBI (Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities) Summer League is one of our most popular activities, from t-ball lessons to teen champions. We had a lot of fun this summer, win or lose! Our RBI All-Star Team had a great time competing in the Northeast Regional Tournament where they placed 3rd. Because of the generosity of the Club's baseball sponsors, donors and the MLB, all expenses surrounding the trip were paid for. Team B & M Catering won the Junior Division Title in the RBI Playoffs.

For over 70 years the Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket has been sending two lucky RBI players to the World Series each year. This opportunity is made possible due to a long-standing partnership with the Worcester Red



Sox. This summer the WooSox continued this wonderful tradition by hosting us for the final drawing. Two of our RBI players and their guardians will be heading to the World Series, all expenses paid, this fall for what is sure to be a lasting childhood memory. We extend a sincere thank you to the WooSox for providing this amazing experience to our members year after year!

BACK TO SCHOOL

Workforce Development Program

Our Workforce Development Program is taking things to a whole new level. We are providing current members with opportunities to get paid while learning about career and education opportunities to prepare them for their futures. We've partnered with professionals across several different career sectors to provide our Workforce Development Program with career panels, mock interviews, and both short and long term mentoring. Our Teen Program staff also had the opportunity to recently attend an in-depth mentoring training. Mentoring is so important for teens as they explore the many possible paths their future can take, and we are very proud to have such knowledgeable staff and partners.

Backpack Drive



We had an awesome turnout for our Back to School Event! It was wonderful seeing so many of our members from last year and meeting new faces who have joined us this year. Several staff members were

on hand to give tours, answer questions, and help with registrations. Thanks to the many generous supporters who donated the supplies, we were able to provide all of the attendees with brand new backpacks stuffed with new school essentials, to make sure all our members start the school year on the right foot! Our wonderful Youth of the Year winner, Marina, was on hand to chat with our young members and hand out backpacks and school supplies.

NEIT PARTNERSHIP

At the start of August, we were able to take part in the grand opening celebration of the new New England Institute of Technology Resource Center in downtown Pawtucket. Through our partnership with NEIT, Pawtucket Central Falls Development, and the city of Pawtucket, the resource center at 2 Bayley St. will provide transportation for local students to both of NEIT's campuses, as well as a student lounge, waiting area for shuttles, and information sessions. In the same building is the delicious Harvest Kitchen, a non-profit restaurant from Farm Fresh Rhode Island.



NEIT also introduced the new Pawtucket College Readiness Initiative, an important program designed to make a degree from NEIT more accessible to those living in Pawtucket. We are truly thankful for these partnerships and all of these entities, working incredibly hard to make great futures possible for young people here in our community.

EARTH DAY CLEAN UP

We had a great Earth Day celebration at the Club and over at Camp Ramsbottom. We were very fortunate to have the community roll up their sleeves and help Club staff beautify our grounds, just in time for our kiddos to get outside and enjoy these beautiful spaces. A few of the volunteer organizations decided to come back both before the summer, during the summer, and in early fall, to generously donate their time to keeping our Club and Camp Ramsbottom in tip top shape so we can continue to provide the best services for local youth year after year!



STRATEGIC PLANNING

This past spring, our community of Club supporters came together for our Strategic Planning Retreat. We were honored to have in attendance the Mayor of Pawtucket, Representatives from the City of Central Falls, Superintendent of Pawtucket Schools, our Board of Directors, Trustees, former Youths of the Year, Club staff, and several other community partners. (Cont. pg 4)



There was so much enthusiasm, engagement, and passion from all of those in attendance as we discussed how to make our Club the best it can be, today and in the future.

From there, our leadership team broke into groups with Club staff and Board members to focus on specific areas. We met several times throughout the summer to focus and plan on how best to achieve these goals and what we need to implement in order to do so.

YOUTH OF THE YEAR

Get to know our 2022 Youth of the Year winner, Marina Pereira! Marina is a senior at Cumberland High School and has been a Boys & Girls Club member for over 15 years. Marina has participated in aquatics programs for the last 6 years. Her first 14 years as a member were spent at the Boys & Girls Club of Northern RI, however, when their aquatics program shut down last year, she joined the Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket's Sharks Swim Team. It was here in Pawtucket where Marina grew not only as a swimmer, but also as a person.

She was instantly welcomed onto the team by her teammates and coaches, which, as a shy teenager, has helped her to step out of her comfort zone and come out of her shell.

Over this past year and a half, she has gained so much self-confidence in and out of the water, making many new friends and working hard

on improving her strength and techniques. Marina has become a leader to her team members, she is always going above and beyond to help the younger swimmers and support all of her teammates.

We are so proud of both our Youth of the Year Winner Marina and our Youth of the Year runner-up Vincent. They both worked so hard balancing school, swim, and the challenging Youth of the Year competition. The Youth of the Year Winner represents the best of our Club and she has been doing a fantastic job.

JOSEPH'S ARTWORK

Joseph, our head maintenance staff member, has brought so much joy and life to our Clubhouse. He is an incredibly talented artist and craftsman and we are so lucky to have him! Back at the start of the summer he painted one of our fire hydrants to look like a dalmatian, and that was just the beginning.



He transformed the staircase that leads to our garden and playground into a rainbow, created a rainbow crosswalk for us, and free painted a map of the USA, which our kids have been loving, especially seeing where little old Rhode Island hits into the larger picture at such a huge scale has been a real treat.

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We've always been lucky to have such a beautiful Clubhouse, but Joseph is taking it to a whole new level. He is making sure that everywhere our members go throughout the Club, they see FUN!! Thank you, Joseph!



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

