

# THE CLUB CONNECTION

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

## FEATURED THIS ISSUE:

Opening Doors 2023

Camp Ramsbottom - Summer 2023

Camp Backpack Drive

Stop & Shop - Always Giving Back

Club Talent Show

Youth of the Year 2023

Camp Ramsbottom Appeal

Dick's Sporting Goods Check Presentation

Cox Innovation Lab

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Teen Summer Program



## 11TH ANNUAL OPENING DOORS - A BIG SUCCESS!

Our 11th Annual Opening Doors Celebration, held at Camp Ramsbottom on June 15th, was a huge success! With over 100 more attendees than last year, we were able to raise \$91,575 - over \$35,000 more than we raised last year! All of the profits raised from the event go directly towards "opening doors" for local youth and we could not do the work we do without the support of such an incredible community.

Besides the great turnout and fundraising efforts, we had beautiful weather, delicious food from Fire Wagon Pizza Co., Ming's Asian Street Food, and The Rhody Hen Cafe. Special shout out to our wonderful emcee Alison Bologna, our presenting sponsor Navigant Credit Union, and the fantastic Camp Ramsbottom staff, who were our knowledgeable tour guides on our hayride Camp tours.

Congratulations to our 2023 Opening Doors Award recipients – John R. Nixon, Volunteer of the Year; Stop & Shop, Corporate Community Partner; and Bill and Mary Lou Catelli, Lyman B. Goff Founders Award. The long standing partnership with these award winners has enabled our Club to grow and support local youth. We were also able to hear from Camp and Club families about how important the Club and Camp are to not only the youth we serve but their families and communities. Thank you to everyone who helped make it such a wonderful event!





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

Camp Ramsbottom has just begun! Our new and returning campers are having a great time in spite of some less than ideal weather we experienced during the first week of Camp! This year Camp Ramsbottom filled up in record time, so if you want to give the best possible summer to your children in summer 2024, make to register as soon as registration opens in early March 2024.

Camp Ramsbottom boasts everything you might want in a summer camp, including: an adventure course, archery, arts & crafts, basketball, fishing, scooters, 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. Make sure to follow along on our social media pages to keep up with all the fun happenings at Camp throughout the summer.



## CAMP DRIVE & BACKPACK PACKING

With the help of some of our friends in the community, we were able to provide a number of Club members and soon to be campers with brand new backpacks stocked with everything they need to have the best possible summer at Camp Ramsbottom!



Thanks to our friends at Collette, we were lucky to have 28 college interns stop by the Club, pack over 200 bags, and take a tour of our Club.

Thank you so much to all of the generous partners who donated the Camp supplies - you make a world of a difference!

## STOP & SHOP - ALWAYS GIVING BACK TO THE CLUB

Stop & Shop came to the Club recently to officially unveil the mural they created and installed, accompanied by some of our young members, for us last year. At the unveiling, Stop & Shop presented the Club with a \$75,000 donation to support youth programming that focuses on overcoming health barriers - including food insecurity, nutrition education and access to mental health care. Club Members were

also treated to a reception honoring the members who helped paint the murals.

We are so grateful to Stop & Shop for all they do for us. Recently, Club families were invited to join us for a cooking demo with Stop & Shop Nutrition Partners. Members and their families had fun making an after dinner snack that was tasty and nutritious!



And finally, we had the opportunity to honor Stop & Shop as our Corporate Partner of the Year at our 2023 Opening Doors event. Thank you Stop & Shop!



## TALENT SHOW

Earlier this month we held a talent show for our pre-teen members. Our members worked very hard on their acts for the past 4 months, and they were all incredible! We even had several staff put on performances of their own.





Iker has grown tremendously since he started coming to the Club back in 2013 and is a true example of what our mission is all about. We are honored to have him represent us, and know he is going to do incredible things in the future.

Congratulations to Iker, and all of our other candidates. You all worked so hard and bring so much to our Club, we are incredibly proud of each of you.

We are truly amazed at how much talent we have here at the Club. A big shout out to our staff who organized this much requested event, and our fabulous audience for cheering and clapping all night long and showing your Club friends all the love and support!

## YOUTH OF THE YEAR

On Thursday, April 6, we hosted our annual Youth of the Year celebration, where a panel of judges from our community interviews and ultimately chooses one high schooler from our Club to represent us throughout the year. The celebration was held at the Alfred Elson, Jr. Clubhouse here at the Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket (BGCP) with Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos and the Mayor of Pawtucket, Donald Grebien, in attendance – along with several of the Club's Board of Directors, Staff, Club members and the families of all of the four Youth of the Year candidates.

Our four candidates were:  
Geraldo "Jerry" Carino, Jr.  
Jazmine Hernandez  
Vincent Foley  
Iker Rojas

At the event we were proud to award Iker Rojas, a junior at The Greene School, the prestigious title of Youth of the Year. Being named Youth of the Year is the highest honor a Boys & Girls Club member can receive. The title recognizes outstanding contributions to a member's family, school, community, and Boys & Girls Club, as well as personal challenges and obstacles overcome.



Last month each Youth of the Year winner from every Boys and Girls Club across the state of Rhode Island gathered at Hasbro to compete for the title of State Youth of the Year, where Daishanay Francis, from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northern Rhode Island, took home the State Youth of the Year title. Daishanay will be competing for the title of National Youth of the Year after winning the Northeast Regional Title in New York City, and we are very proud to see our state represented!



## CAMP APPEAL

WE DID IT! Thanks to all of you - we were able to surpass our original fundraising goal and managed to raise \$12,670, all to help send local children to Camp Ramsbottom. Thank you all so much for your generous support! Your donations truly change lives.



Camp Ramsbottom began Monday, June 26! Make sure to follow us on social media to stay tuned and see first-hand all the fun we'll have at Camp this summer!

## DICK'S SPORTING GOODS CHECK PRESENTATION

Dick's Sporting Goods continues to amaze us with their generosity. They came to the Club with swag for our Sharks Swim Team and presented us with a check for \$7,500 to help us continue to provide our members with top-tier athletics and aquatics programming.

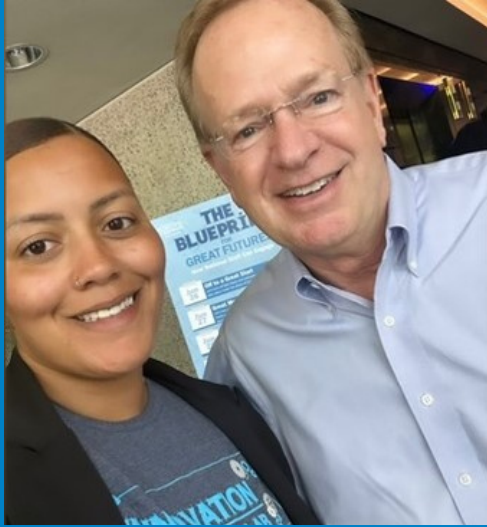
Dick's Sporting Goods – you've knocked it out of the park! Thank you for being a great teammate to our kids!





## COX INNOVATION LAB

Thanks to a generous grant from Cox Communications, we are in the early stages of creating our very own Innovation Lab here at the Club. Sheila, our wonderful Pre-Teen Program Coordinator, went down to the Boys & Girls Club of America Headquarters in Georgia to learn more and represent our Club. She even had the opportunity to meet BGCA's CEO Jim Clark!



up their sleeves to help clean and beautify our grounds, just in time for our kids to get outside and enjoy these beautiful spaces!

We cannot begin to thank you all for the incredibly generous donation of your time and hard work! Make sure to stop by either location this summer to see your hard work in action!

## 401 GIVES

Thank you to all who supported us during 401Gives, Rhode Island's biggest state wide day of giving. Whether you donated directly towards us or liked and shared our posts or emails, every single action mattered and helped us raise \$9,470 that will be invested directly back into the young people in our community. If you didn't get the opportunity to yet, make sure you check out the videos on our YouTube channel that we made for our 401Gives campaign for a behind the scenes look at what goes on at our Club.



## TEEN SUMMER PROGRAM IN FULL SWING AT THE CLUB!

Available for youth ages 13-18, we provide activities throughout the day, working to keep members interested and involved in fun and educational programs during their summer break. Teen summer programming at the Club offers much of what we provide during the school year.

Located at our Alfred Elson, Jr. Clubhouse in Pawtucket, all participants will have the opportunity

to participate in several different activities throughout the week, including weekly pool time, basketball and sports leagues, games, gardening, field trips, and will be provided with a nutritious meal daily, workforce development opportunities, enrichment learning activities, interaction with professional and caring role models, and more.



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF  
PAWTUCKET**  
ONE MOELLER PLACE  
PAWTUCKET, RI 02860

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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 [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 [agonsalves@bgcpawt.org](mailto:agonsalves@bgcpawt.org) or

401-722-8840 x 816.

## EARTH DAY

We had an amazing Earth Day here at the Club and over at Camp Ramsbottom, with over 175 volunteers from 15 partners! We were so lucky to have great weather, and our amazing community partners from Amica Insurance, Bank of America, Coastal1 Credit Union, Bristol County Savings Bank, Hasbro, Centreville Bank, Boston Scientific, Citizens, Collette, Navigant Credit, Union, Cox, Old Navy, City of Pawtucket, TW Financial Group, and Stop & Shop, came and rolled

