

THE CLUB CONNECTION

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

FEATURED THIS ISSUE:

Member Spotlight

Summer 2023 Program
Roundup

Back to School

Cox Innovation Lab

Resource Development
Professional of the Year

Bank of America Student
Leaders

A Summer of Tours at
Camp

Congratulations to Our
Staff of the Month



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Meet the incredible Avery, one of our newest members in the Kindercare room. Her journey here began with a few tears, but she quickly opened up to our staff and embraced all the Club has to offer. Now, her radiant smile lights up our Club each and every day!

Avery loves going on the slides, playing on the playground with her new friends, and all of the yummy foods she's tried at the Club - some for the very first time. She is looking forward to doing experiments in our new Innovation Lab and being a part of the STEM Club one day!



SUMMER 2023 PROGRAM ROUNDUP

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

Camp Ramsbottom

Children and staff from several communities across Rhode Island and Southeastern 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 1,667 local children spend their summer with us at Camp and were able to provide 158 incredible summer experiences to kids who otherwise would not have been able to attend Camp.

While Camp was “out of season,” we received an incredibly generous donation of time, materials, and labor to completely renovate our outdoor amphitheater at Camp, called Shoshone Village.



The newly renovated Shoshone Village features ample, comfortable seating, a large beautiful stage, and the wooden stairs have been replaced with a wide and modern gentle path that is accessible for all campers and guests. Thank you so much to all who made this beautiful new space possible! We were able to have some fantastic talent shows, camp fires, awards ceremonies, and more.



Teen Summer Program

This year's Teen Summer Program might have been the best one yet. We had 76 local teens spend their summer here at the Club. Thanks to a partnership with the Pawtucket School Department we were able to welcome 24 students from Slater Middle School to attend our Teen Summer Program at no cost.

Our Teen Center staff planned an incredible event-filled summer for our teens, including field trips to the beach, paintball, bowling, Helix eSports, college campuses, as well as cooking classes, trivia, gardening, dance, games, lunch, summer basketball league, art, and more.



Thank you to all the staff and Club supporters who made such an epic summer possible! And of course all of our teen members for coming back to the Club each day this summer.

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 13 children learn how to swim at the Club, we also had 29 children receive full scholarships for swim lessons (up from 8 last summer), enabling them to continue to grow and improve as swimmers. This is such an important skill to have, not only for fun but for safety, especially here in the Ocean State.



Baseball

From t-ball lessons to teen champions, our RBI (Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities) Summer League is one of our most popular activities. This year the league has a brand new official corporate sponsor, Nike, and the program will now be formally referred to as Nike RBI. Thanks to this partnership, Nike provided all of the All-Star gear for the two teams the Club sent to the regional All-Star tournament in July, and next summer they will be providing Nike branded uniforms for all players.

Continuing a tradition that dates back 73 years, the WooSox are sending two members from the Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket on an all-expense paid trip to see the World Series in person!

Our two lucky winners - Ayden Carroll and Leah Torres, were ecstatic after their names were drawn at Polar Park in Worcester, where they learned they would both be attending this year's World Series, each with a family member, all at no cost.



We are so thankful to the WooSox for continuing this beloved tradition for our members and their families. This was a wonderful way to wrap up another great summer of baseball here at the Club. "These kids are going to remember this experience for the rest of their lives," said Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket CEO, Jim Hoyt. "Two lucky kids from our baseball leagues have had this opportunity to attend the World Series every year since 1950. We're grateful that the Worcester Red Sox are continuing this tradition, as it is one of our favorites."

BACK TO SCHOOL

Thanks to the support of several Club supporters, we were able to fill 376 backpacks to give away at our annual Back to School Open House. Current and new members and their families had the opportunity to tour the Club, receive a backpack filled with all the school supplies a child could need, and enjoy a complimentary frozen lemonade, courtesy of our friends at Palagis!



Check out the whole album on our Facebook page to see more photos from the ribbon cutting and check out some of the equipment we offer.

AMY GONSALVES: RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

In October several members of the Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket's staff attended the Boys & Girls Clubs of America's 2023 Northeast Regional Conference in Boston. It was an incredible week of fantastic keynote speakers, break-out sessions that attendees could choose based on their interests and goals, performances by Club youth members, meeting and learning from other Club staff from across the northeast, and more.

Among the highlights was our Director of Development & Communications, Amy Gonsalves, being honored as the Northeast Outstanding Resource Development Professional of the Year. Amy will be joining five national finalists, where the winner of National Outstanding Resource Development Professional will be announced at the National Conference in May 2024.



We are so proud of Amy's achievement and the transformative impact she's had at the Club over these past three and a half years.

COX INNOVATION LAB

Last month, the Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket proudly debuted our cutting-edge Innovation Lab, powered by a generous \$20,000 grant from Cox Communications. Unveiled on September 27, this state-of-the-art facility aims to spark imagination and empower the next generation of STEM professionals.



Already, the lab is abuzz with excitement as our members explore all of the possibilities. Cox's support has helped create a space that will help jumpstart many bright futures!

BANK OF AMERICA YOUTH LEADERS

This summer we were so lucky to be selected to have an incredible group of young people spending their summer working and learning here at the Club and at Camp Ramsbottom through the Bank of America Student Leader Program.



Through this program, over 300 community-minded high school juniors and seniors from over 100 communities had the opportunity to take part in paid internships at local non-profit organizations. Here they had the opportunity to learn more about the various aspects of non-profit service, and participate in many hands-on experiences that helped them gain both work and life experience.

We couldn't have asked for a better team, they contributed so much to both the Club and Camp Ramsbottom and we know they have big futures ahead of them.

A SUMMER OF TOURS AT CAMP

This summer we had the honor of hosting several local Club partners and supporters, including David Cicilline, President & CEO of the Rhode Island Foundation; Mayor of Pawtucket Don Grebien, along with his wife, Lauren; Patricia Royal, Superintendent of the Pawtucket School Department, along with Andrew Lagace, Director of Communications & Public Relations.



We also hosted friends from Citizen's Bank, Hasbro, Community Health Systems Foundation, Simon W. Wardwell Foundation, and more at beautiful Camp Ramsbottom. These tours were an opportunity for the people who advocate for our members and help support our scholarship program to see where all their hard work and generosity goes.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STAFF OF THE MONTH

Our pre-teen and teen Youth Development Professionals are back in full swing here at the Club. For the month of September we recognized two staff members who have gone above and beyond in their roles here at the Club.

Congratulations to Alberlyn and Dave! Alberlyn, who is new to the Club this year, and Dave, who is a veteran of both Club and Camp, have been great role models to all of our members and staff. We are so lucky to have such a passionate group of people who help shape the futures of our members every day!



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

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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. 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 or 401-722-8840 x 816.