

THE CLUB CONNECTION

WINTER 2024 - Quarterly Newsletter of the Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket

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123RD ANNUAL MEETING

This year we decided to switch things up a bit with regards to our Annual Meeting, and invited guests to our Clubhouse to visit with Club members, staff, board members, and community and corporate partners, as we highlighted the many successful programs and partnerships we have currently running here at the Club.

We featured twelve stations in our Teen Center gym; each station contained information about a specific Club program, and each station was staffed by a Club member and either a board member or a corporate/community partner. Guests had the opportunity to speak directly with the partners, board members, Club staff, and of course most importantly, the Club kids who are participating in these programs!

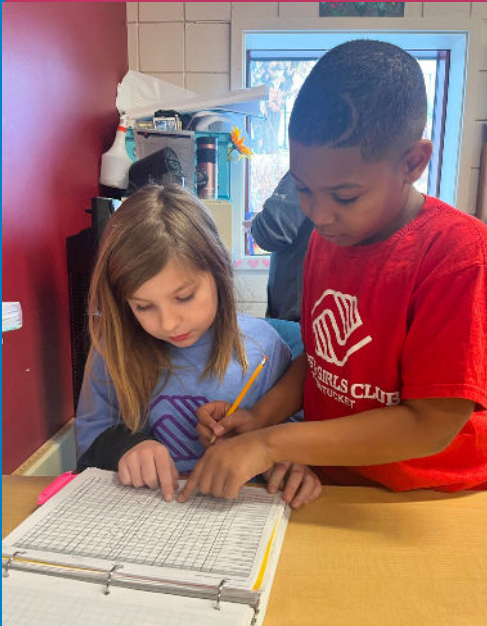
Not only was this our most attended Annual Meeting to date, we also had great feedback from attendees, who thoroughly enjoyed getting to interact directly with the members and see first hand what their support of the Club allows us to offer to our youth - from healthy eating initiatives, workforce development, STEM and podcasting, arts programming, sports and recreation, and more.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Meet our two fantastic homework room volunteers, **Lilith** and **Xy'eer**! Lilith is 9 and in the 4th grade and Xy'eer is also 9 and is in the 3rd grade. They have been friends for "a longtime, a very longtime, since kindergarten here at the Club!"

Their roles here in the homework room come with several different responsibilities. First and foremost, they still have to get their homework done like everyone else! After homework they are huge helps to Ms. Liz - our longtime homework room supervisor - checking students in, getting supplies for them, helping them log onto the computers, and assisting younger students with their homework.



Lilith and Xy'eer are also responsible for keeping the homework room well decorated and clean. "We love to decorate in here because we want the kids to come here, and we want to make it nice and bright so kids have a full imagination," said Lilith. "We do this to inspire them, and when they get older, when they're 19, maybe they'll come work here!" said Xy'eer.

Speaking of working, we asked Lilith and Xy'eer their thoughts on what they want to do for a career when they grow up.

"Here, working here." Xy'eer confidently states. Lilith says, "I see myself as being a scientist, and I love science, and I feel like it could help my knowledge, and scientists are really cool because they make stuff. And I think that I could find, like, cures to sicknesses." Xy'eer chimes in, "That's funny, because it's the same thing with me. Because my brother and I have like, mad science kits."



We are certainly excited to see what the future holds for these two hardworking friends. In the meantime, we are lucky to have them as volunteers, and we will certainly check back in with them throughout their time here as members of the Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket!

CAMP RAMSBOTTOM - BACK FOR ANOTHER FUN FILLED SUMMER!

How do we get through the long, cold winter? Dreaming about summer of course! And here at the Club, summer means the start of CAMP! Camp Ramsbottom registration for summer 2024 opens on March 1. Located in Rehoboth, MA, Camp Ramsbottom features 171 acres of summertime fun. Summer programs at Camp are offered to youth ages 6-13, and runs from June through August in four two-week sessions. Children can spend the entire summer with us, or select a specific session.



Camp Ramsbottom has everything your child could want in a fun summer camp, including: an adventure course, archery, arts & crafts, basketball, drama, fishing, hiking, mini-golf, bunnies and goats, soccer, swimming, tennis, pickleball, and much more, all led by caring and professional staff.

Campers ages 6 through 8 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 4 – June 15, from 10 am. – 2 pm.



HOLIDAY SEASON ROUNDUP

Halloween

This past Halloween, we had several returning partners and some new friends stop by to turn our Club into a super spooky Halloween maze and dance for our members and their families. Over 125 volunteers decorated, packed candy bags, painted windows, made lollipop ghosts, and more. Our members and their families had an absolute blast going through the maze over and over again, dancing in the gym, eating delicious treats. Each child got to leave with a goody bag packed with treats thanks to our friends from Stop & Shop.



Trunk or Treat

We couldn't have asked for a more perfect day to host our first ever Trunk or Treat event at Camp Ramsbottom with over 600 attendees!



We had a blast trunk or treating, face painting, reading spooky stories, decorating bags, and

cooking special Halloween treats! This was our first Camp event for families that was open to the public and held outside of summer. A special thanks to all of our volunteers who made this day fun and exciting for all of our guests and their families.

Turkey Express

For the past 17 years, our incredible friends at Stop & Shop have provided thousands of Club families across Rhode Island with a Thanksgiving turkey and all of the fixings. 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 - and in the rain!



Thank you also to our friends at TW Financial Group, who come to the Club each year to pack bags donated by Stop & Shop full of all the food so that our staff can distribute all the meals to our families. We love seeing so much teamwork happen each and every year to make sure every family has the best possible holiday!

Thanksgiving Member Dinner

Year after year we serve all of our members, their families, and our staff a delicious Thanksgiving Dinner. This year we had a fabulous group of board members, trustees, and members of their families volunteer to serve the meal. We're so lucky to have a great community to help us give back to our members and their families each year.



Adopt-a-Family

Because of 100s of generous donors, we were able to adopt 67 families through our Adopt-a-Family Program. Since its inception, our Adopt-a-Family Program has grown each year, with 2023 marking the most families our Club has supported. This year's support also allowed us to provide a Stop & Shop gift card to each family. Each family was overwhelmed by the generosity of our supporters, and we received many thanks from them.

"Unfortunately this past year has been a roller coaster for my family and I. All I can say is thank you, thank you, thank you - from the bottom of my heart. To know that someone took the time to help my family and I is the most amazing thing. I hope you know that this act of kindness will not be forgotten and will be passed on."
- Club Parent

Holiday Celebrations

We made sure there were several opportunities to get into the holiday spirit at the Club! We had a holiday party at the Club for our members, and we also had a hayride and hot cocoa event at Camp Ramsbottom for the public. At both events, guests had the opportunity to meet with Santa, pick out a new toy, and taste some yummy treats. Our Club party also featured a talent show by some of our incredible members. It was a wonderful way to end a great year at the Club!



SAVE THE DATE - OPENING DOORS 2024

We are excited to announce that our 12th Annual Opening Doors celebration will be held at Camp Ramsbottom on the evening of Thursday, June 13th. For the third year in a row the attire will be "Camp Casual," and guests will have the opportunity to tour our beloved Camp, sample food from several local food trucks, as well as a selection of beer and wine. And, bringing back a fan favorite from last year, we will be offering hayride tours of our 171 acres of Camp!

It should be an incredible night, so make sure to spread the word and keep an eye out for more information about ticket sales in the near future!



MEET OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS!



**MEET
AMY CAROSI!**
Amica

How did you find out about the Club/how did you get involved?

I got involved with the Club in 2019

after a coworker (and prior board member) recommended me to join the HR Committee.

What compelled you to join the board?

I joined the board because I deeply care about the great work being done at the Club and wanted to further my commitment and involvement. Seeing the passion of the team that works at the Club, I hope to add to that energy.



**MEET
STEVE IANNAZZI!**
Cox

How did you find out about the Club/how did you get involved?

I have had the opportunity to visit

many Boys and Girls Clubs throughout Rhode Island and Connecticut through my work with Cox Communications. Through our partnership with BGCA, Cox is committed to creating meaningful moments of human connection through its technology grant program.

What compelled you to join the board?

I sought to contribute to the board of the Boys and Girls Club of Pawtucket, driven by a deep-seated commitment to community service. My involvement with numerous non-profit organizations across Rhode Island has cultivated in me a profound appreciation for philanthropy. However, the opportunity to serve at the Club offers a uniquely gratifying experience as it allows for direct observation of the tangible impact our efforts have on the youth of Pawtucket and Central Falls. Witnessing the transformative power of our initiatives, particularly within the Cox Innovation Labs, where children engage in diverse STEAM activities, fills me with profound warmth and motivation.



**MEET
VIKEN JAWHARJIAN!**
Thielsch

How did you find out about the Club/how did you get involved?

A coworker of mine

introduced me to the Club by way of the Turkey Express events. I started to volunteer one year and from there it just gained momentum. I found myself serving on the Technology Committee and then as of a few months ago the Board of Directors.

What compelled you to join the board?

It gives me an opportunity to further help a great organization with a great cause. In the end, helping kids get the most out of their childhood and providing them opportunities that will help shape them into successful adults, whatever passion or dream they want to pursue.



MEET DERECK MENDOZA!
FM Global

How did you find out about the Club/how did you get involved?

I spent half my

childhood growing up in Pawtucket, and became a member of the club at an early age. I was raised by a single mom who worked multiple jobs to support us, so the afterschool programs & care were a great help through some challenging times. It really made a huge difference in both of our lives.

What compelled you to join the board?

It's an amazing opportunity to support & give back to such an incredible organization. As an alumnus, I experienced first-hand how truly impactful these programs are; and especially to at-need youth. I still carry many of the key lessons, friendships, and experiences with me today.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF PAWTUCKET
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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. We welcome your support through individual donations or a corporate gift.

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