

YOUTH COMMISSION
CJH MUNICIPAL CENTER
MEETING ROOM "B"
1 SCHOOL STREET
FEBRUARY 22, 2011
6:45 PM
MINUTES

RECEIVED

2011 FEB 24 P 3:26

TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

PRESENT:

Chairman, Richard Merritt, Members: Bob Korin, Kristin Nauheimer, and Jane Kraver.

Absent with notice: Lisa Bergh, Kate Shea. Absent: Devon Pedone
Also Present: Hilda Delucia, Pro-Access Teen Center Director, and Claudia Fortunato, Assistant Director. Mike Flynn and Julia Havlock from Ridgefield Boys and Girls Club.

Chairman Rich Merritt called the meeting to order at 6:48 PM.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of October 19, 2010 were tabled due to the eligible members not being available to vote. Jane Kraver made a motion to accept the minutes of November 16, 2010, motion seconded by Bob Korin. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Bob Korin made a motion to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting of December 10, 2010; motion was seconded by Kristin Nauheimer. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

PRESENTATION OF THE RIDGEFIELD BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB:

Mike Flynn and Julia Havlock shared that there are 16 Boys and Girls Clubs in the State of Connecticut and over 4000 in the United States. Mike ran through the points of interest on the attached newsletter and handout; stating that each one is a little different, but operates under the same scope. Ridgefield serves children from the 2nd through the 12th grade. The key is to have a positive impact on kids giving them a sense of belonging and usefulness. Once the children reach the 8th and 9th grade they will in turn positively influence the younger grades.

He also went over the 5 core areas of the Boys and Girls Clubs (see handout, attached).

Bob Korin asked "How and who measures success?" The answer to this question is - retention of youth

- # of days the kids come
- various statistical data

On a national level:

- Grade promotion rate, grades etc.

Hilda Delucia shared the Teen Center/Pro-Access history with Mike and Julia. In Bethel we currently have 403 members with an annual budget that went from \$74,000 down to \$54,000. She discussed the idea of the VNA and then the extension of the building and the need for funding. We shared that joining the Boys and Girls club may be premature, but maybe in a few years.

Mike and Julia shared that the Ridgefield Boys and Girls Club budget is currently slightly over a million dollars a year.

Discussion focused on what steps would have to be taken in order to join if the decision was made to move forward.

DIRECTORS REPORT: Hilda Delucia presented the Directors Report (see attached). Hilda reported on the "Volunteer Club" Among some of the ideas for this new club would be to shovel snow and shop for the elderly, etc. She has developed an agreement that will be signed by the child and parent (see attached). Hilda stated that there is definitely a need for this type of group.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Finding a replacement for Jacquie as ex-officio teen member is something that needs to be looked into.

Rich will be looking into whether or not it will be possible to have a boy and girl ex-officio member.

Hilda hopes to be in the VNA space by May, she has a meeting with a decorator for help in getting it ready.

Bob Korin made a motion to nominate Lisa Bergh as recording secretary. The motion was seconded by Kristin Nauheimer. No other names were put forth, therefore a vote took place, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

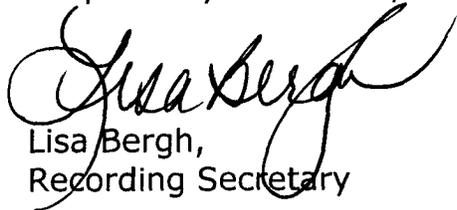
Richard Merritt made a motion to nominate Bob Korin as Vice-Chairman. Motion was seconded by Kristin Nauheimer. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Jane Kraver made a motion to nominate Richard Merritt as Chairman; motion was seconded by Bob Korin. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

The next regularly scheduled Youth Commission Meeting will be held March 15, 2011.

A motion to adjourn was made by Kristin Nauheimer; the motion was seconded by Bob Korin. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.
Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Bergh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "L".

Lisa Bergh,
Recording Secretary



Mission:

To inspire and enable all youth, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens.

Youth Development Strategy:

Boys & Girls Club programs inspire young people by providing a sense of:

- Belonging
- Usefulness
- Influence
- Competence

When this strategy is fully implemented, self-esteem is enhanced and an environment is created which helps boys & girls reach their full potential.

5 Core Areas of Programming:

- Sports, Fitness and Recreation
- The Arts
- Education and Career Development
- Health and Life Skills
- Character and Leadership Development

Staple National Programs:

Torch Club	Digital Arts Suite	Project Learn
Keystone Club	Clay Tech	Teen Goals for Growth
National Fine Arts Exhibit	JR. Staff Career Development	Jr. NBA/ WNBA
S.M.A.R.T Moves	Passport to Manhood	RBI
Youth of the Year	Career Launch	Image Makers
Money Matters	Ultimate Journey	Music Makers
Power Hour	Drama Matters	Triple Play

Nat'l Health/Lifestyle program

↓

Similar to a DARE program. develop pos. self-esteem (8-9 yr. old - start)



A Boys & Girls Club Provides:

- A safe place to learn and grow...
- Ongoing relationships with caring, adult professionals...
- Life enhancing programs and character development experiences...
- Hope and opportunity

The Capacities Kids Need to Succeed:

- Positive Self Identity
- Educational, Employment, Social, Emotional, and Cultural Competences
- Community Involvement
- Health and Well Being
- Moral Compass

National Resources:

BGCA: www.bgca.net

- Funding/ Grant opportunities
- Trainings/ Webinars
- Leadership University/ The Academy of Boys & Girls Club Professionals
- Brand Matters: Promotional and Marketing tool
- National Slogans: BE Great, Positive Place for Kids, Great Futures Start Here
- News and Information
- National and Regional Conferences
- Best Practices
- National Staff Directory



National Mandated Reporting (Chartering):

Annual Reporting- Board & Management Professionals

Impact Assessment- Youth Development Professionals

S.O.E.'s Standards of Excellence

Youth of the Year Submission

following these to stay under BGCA umbrella

Connecticut Networking Groups:

Connecticut Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs, INC. - Executive Directors

Connecticut Association of Boys & Girls Club Professionals- Program Staff

State Wide Events- State Wide Funding Opportunities

- Ridgefield hosts 3 of 6 - expected to participate

Local Operation:

- After School Program
- Summer Camp
- Special Events
- Swim Team
- Sports Leagues
- Community Usage
- Family based Programs
- Collaborative Programming- Schools, Youth Groups, etc.

• 150 Kids per day after school
• 175-200 Summer Campers

Uniqueness:

~~✓~~ Retention of Youth

→ get them young as they need to b/c parent works - then see value & relationships build - continue on w/ great programs & chance for them to be leaders.

Full Time Youth Development Staff and Organization

I. Membership Update:

Grade	Feb 11 Membership	Girls	Boys	Jan. 11 Membership	Girls	Boys	Jan. 10 membership	
7	25	21	4	25	21	4	44	
8	64	37	27	64	37	27	62	
Freshman	79	41	38	77	41	36	102	
Sophomore	112	36	76	111	36	75	49	
Juniors	55	15	40	55	15	40	55	
Seniors	68	20	48	66	20	46	38	
Totals	403	170	233	398	170	228	350	
TOTAL COMPARISON		1.2% increase from last month					15.1% increase from Feb. 10	

II. Program Update and Attendance (see report below)

- a. "Giving Club"
- b. Dave & Busters/Chucky Cheese
- c. Lock-In
- d. Friends Photo Shoot
- e. New Location for Manicures
- f. Self Defense Class
- g. Zumba Class

III. Email vs. Mailing of calendars

- a. Link on Board of Ed, Parks and Rec and Bethel Town website

IV. Banner for Soldiers

V. Teen Center Space/Building

January 17, 2011- February 22, 2011

PRO ACCESS ACTIVITY REPORT

	Activity	Date	Attendees	Comments
1	Famous Pizza	1/19/11	5	
2	Open Gym	1/21/11	0	Cancelled due to snow
3	Jacquelines	1/26/11	0	Cancelled due to snow
4	\$5 Manicures	2/2/11	0	Cancelled due to snow
5	Open Gym	2/4/11	23	
6	Student Advisory meeting	2/7/11	15	
7	Relay for Life	2/8/11	0	No one interested in being a captain for the team!
8	Giving Club meeting	2/11/11	0	
9	Open Gym	2/11/11	33	
10	Harlem Globetrotters	2/12/11	0	
11	Jacquelines	2/16/11	4	
12	Open Gym	2/18/11	23	
13	Snow Tubing	2/21/11	0	Cancelled due to school in session
Total Participants served in Jan. 2011/Feb. 2011			103	Avg of 17 participants per program

During this same period, mid Jan. '10 to mid Feb. '10, 187 participants were served with 7 programs for an average of 26 participants per program. (average open gym attendance was 48 compared to an average of 26 in attendance this year.)

I. Membership Update:

Grade	Jan. 11 Membership	Girls	Boys	Dec. 10 Membership	Girls	Boys	Jan. 10 membership
7	25	21	4	25	21	4	44
8	64	37	27	64	37	27	62
Freshman	77	41	36	77	41	36	102
Sophomore	111	36	75	110	36	74	49
Juniors	55	15	40	54	15	39	55
Seniors	66	20	46	66	20	46	38
Totals	398	170	228	396	170	226	350
TOTAL COMPARISON		.05% increase from last month					13.7% increase from Jan. 10

II. Program Attendance (see report below)

III. Teen Center Space/Building

December 9, 2010 - January 17, 2011

PRO ACCESS ACTIVITY REPORT

	Activity	Date	Attendees	Comments
1	Open Gym	12/10/10	15	
2	Toastmasters Youth Leadership Program	12/13/10	14	
3	Student Advisory Meeting	12/14/10		Cancelled
4	Cookie Club	12/15/10	7	
5	Open Gym	12/17/10	31	
6	Toastmasters Youth Leadership Program	12/20/10	31	12 students, 19 adults
7	BFFs at Jacquelines	12/22/10	5	
8	\$5 Manicures	1/5/11	6	
9	Open Gym	1/7/11		Cancelled due to snow
10	Student Advisory Group	1/10/11	17	
11	Open Gym	1/14/11	31	
12	Whalers Game	1/15/11		Cancelled due to lack of interest
13	Snow Tubing	1/17/11		Cancelled not enough reservations rec'd in time for bus reservation
Total Participants served in Dec. 2010/Jan. 2011			157	Avg of 17 participants per program
During this same period, mid Dec. '09 to mid Jan '10, 181 participants were served with 10 programs for an average of 18 participants per program.				

Pro Access, Bethel's Teen Center's "GIVING CLUB" Volunteer Agreement

Date: _____

Your name: _____

I, _____, the volunteer have attended the Pro Access Volunteer Orientation.

- I agree to demonstrate a professional and respectful attitude when performing work as a volunteer for Pro Access' "Giving Club".
- I agree to complete my volunteer task within the time frame designated by the Director
- I understand that I cannot enter the person's home under any condition
- I understand I am performing the service for free and do not expect any compensation.
- If I provide shopping services, I will have the person complete the money exchange form at the beginning and upon the conclusion of the service.
- I agree to bring any instruments such shovels, rakes, brooms to the worksite.
- I agree to call the Pro Access Director within 24 hours of being recruited for an assignment, if I cannot meet my obligation.

Pro Access, Bethel's Teen Center's "GIVING CLUB" Volunteer Liability Release Statements

Above mentioned volunteer releases Pro Access, Inspired Learning, The town of Bethel, its officers, employees, agents and representatives from any responsibility or liability for personal injury, including death, and damage to or loss of property, that Volunteer may incur due to the negligence of themselves or others while performing the volunteer activity.

Above mentioned volunteer does hereby grant and convey to Pro Access and the Town of Bethel, all rights, title and interest in any and all photographic images and video or audio recordings made by them during my volunteer assignment including, but not limited to, any royalties, proceeds or other benefits derived from such photographs or recordings.

I acknowledge that I have read, fully understand and am voluntarily signing this agreement and release without any inducement from any member of the staff.

Signature of Volunteer

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian (if under 18 years old)

Date

KEYSTONE CLUBS: THE ULTIMATE TEEN PROGRAM

What is a Keystone Club?

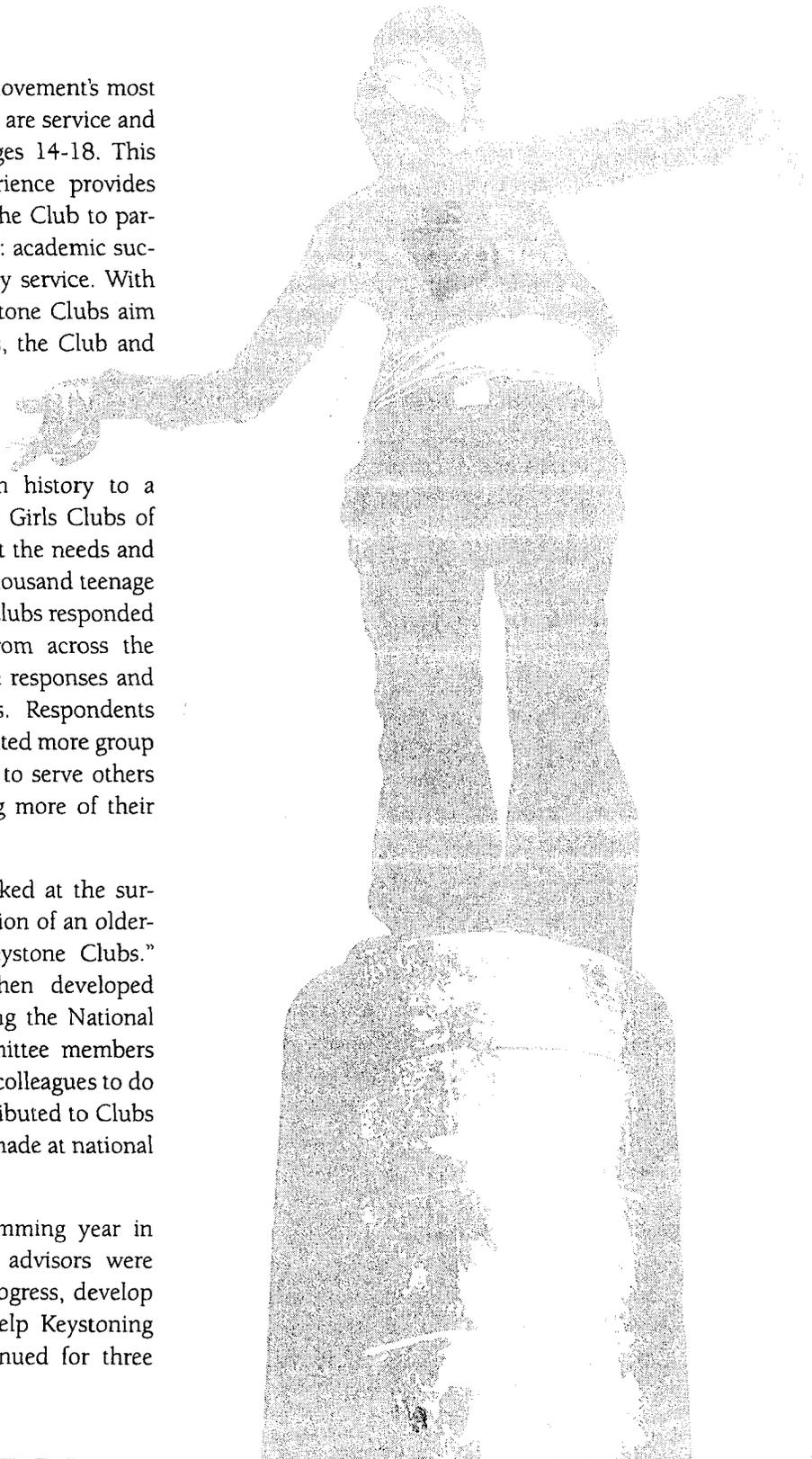
Keystoning is the Boys & Girls Club Movement's most dynamic teen program. Keystone Clubs are service and leadership Clubs for boys and girls ages 14-18. This unique leadership development experience provides opportunities for youth in and out of the Club to participate in activities in three focus areas: academic success, career exploration and community service. With the guidance of an adult advisor, Keystone Clubs aim to have a positive impact on members, the Club and community.

History of Keystoning

Keystoning owes its origins and rich history to a research project conducted by Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) in 1958 that looked at the needs and interests of older Club members. One thousand teenage members from 100 randomly selected Clubs responded to the questionnaire. Club leaders from across the Movement examined trends among the responses and looked for programming implications. Respondents overwhelmingly indicated that they wanted more group experiences, to relate to skilled adults, to serve others and to take responsibility for planning more of their own activities.

BGCA's 1960 National Convention looked at the survey results and recommended the creation of an older-member association to be called "Keystone Clubs." The National Program Committee then developed and implemented a plan for developing the National Association of Keystone Clubs. Committee members started Keystone Clubs and urged their colleagues to do likewise. Articles were written and distributed to Clubs and presentations on Keystoning were made at national conferences and other meetings.

After Keystoning's first official programming year in 1964, Keystone Club presidents and advisors were invited to a meeting to review their progress, develop program materials and lay plans to help Keystoning grow. These annual assessments continued for three



FIVE KEY ELEMENTS FOR POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

years, and as a result, a Keystone manual, charter, newsletter and chosen insignia were created.

The first National Keystone Club Conference was held in Chicago in 1967 as part of Boys Clubs of America's annual conference. Approximately 300 delegates attended, nearly twice as many as expected. By 1970, the conference had grown to become an integral part of the Keystone Club experience, and Keystoners had assumed major responsibility for planning and conducting the conference. By the year 2000, the National Keystone Conference had grown to include more than 1,800 participants.

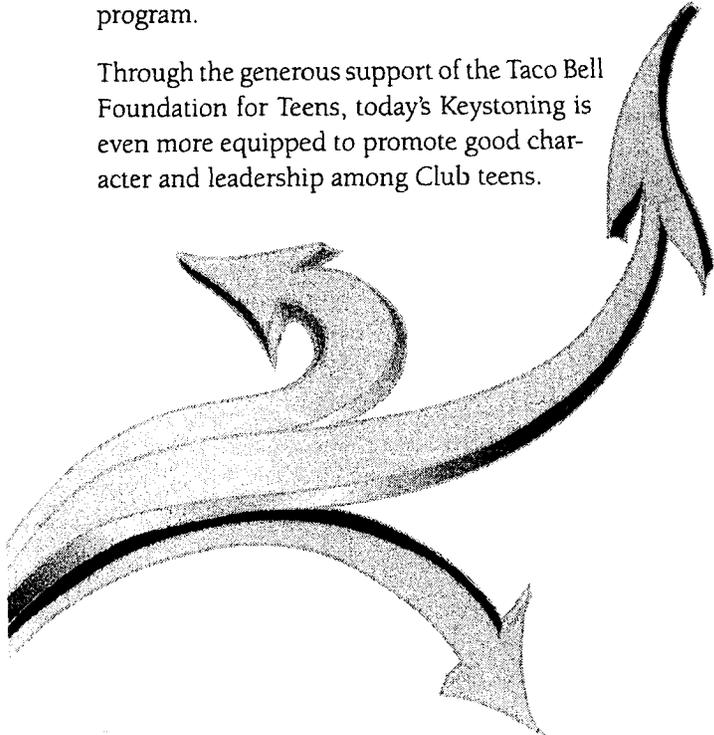
Thousands of Club teens are taking part in the Keystone experience. The program is represented in all fifty states and on U.S. military bases in Asia and Europe. Keystoning would not enjoy its current stature and success without the support of numerous Boys & Girls Club professionals who serve on national program committees and as advisors to Keystone Clubs. The history of the Keystone Club program is a living legacy to all those who have contributed to developing this outstanding teen character and leadership development program.

Through the generous support of the Taco Bell Foundation for Teens, today's Keystoning is even more equipped to promote good character and leadership among Club teens.

Five Key Elements for Positive Youth Development

Through extensive research, BGCA has identified certain elements that make it possible for Clubs to assure positive developmental experiences for Club youth. We have learned that the level of impact a Club has on young people depends on how often and how long members participate, as well as how well the Club implements these five key elements. Incorporating these ingredients into your Keystone program will help ensure success:

- **A Safe, Positive Environment** - Club staff, facilities, program offerings and age-appropriate settings create stability, consistency and a sense of physical and emotional safety for members. The Club provides structure and clearly defines acceptable behaviors.
- **Fun** - Clubs generate fun for members. Members develop a strong sense of belonging through connections they establish with staff and peers. Staff members make the Club feel like home, fostering a family atmosphere and creating a sense of ownership for members.
- **Supportive Relationships** - Club youth develop meaningful relationships with peers and adults. Staff members actively cultivate such relationships to ensure that every member feels connected to one or more adults and peers. Staff members demonstrate warmth, caring, appreciation, acceptance and proper guidance in their interactions with members.
- **Opportunities and Expectations** - Club youth acquire physical, social, technological, artistic and life skills. Clubs encourage members to develop moral character and behave ethically. Staff members establish and reinforce high expectations and help young people do well in school and pursue a post-secondary education.
- **Recognition** - Clubs recognize and affirm young people's self-worth and accomplishments. Staff members encourage youth and provide positive reinforcement as they make improvements and experience successes. The Club showcases young people's achievements.



ALLIANCE ACCENTS

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 23

January 2011

CONNECTICUT ALLIANCE OF BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS, INC.

Welcome to the twenty third issue of *ALLIANCE ACCENTS*. As previously stated, the purpose of *ALLIANCE ACCENTS* is to keep both the Boys & Girls Clubs in Connecticut and the State of Connecticut Legislature up to date on the progress being made with the many statewide initiatives being implemented by the Connecticut Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs, Inc. This issue *ALLIANCE ACCENTS* focuses on a couple of our statewide initiatives as well as news from the Boys & Girls Clubs and their recent achievements.

Articles, questions and suggestions should be forwarded to Joe Andreana, *ALLIANCE ACCENTS* Editor, via fax at (203) 924-7912 or e-mail to joeandreana@bgc-Inv.org.



Joe Andreana
Editor

SENATOR DODD VISITS WITH HARTFORD BGC KEYSTONE MEMBERS

Inside this issue:

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Members of the BGCH Keystone Club, a leadership club for BGCH teens, attended the first lecture of the Youth Peace Summit at the University of Connecticut on Sunday, September 19th. This event was the kickoff for the upcoming Youth Peace Summit and International Athletic Games. Members had a unique opportunity to hear from several speakers about peace, sports, and the world. After the event, Senator Dodd took some time to speak to the members about the importance of after school programs like Boys and Girls Clubs. After the lecture, alumni Armando Jimenez, gave members a campus tour and experienced college dining.



BGCH Alumni Armando Jimenez with Keystone Club members



Senator Dodd with Keystone Club members of the Hartford Boys and Girls Club

BRISTOL BGC CAMPERS LEARN ABOUT SERVICE

This summer at the Bristol Boys & Girls Club Senior Center Summer Camp, the campers' summer was not just about having fun in the sun.

While the kids were having fun and engaged in many different activities, they were also learning to inspire and enable themselves and others through service learning projects. Service learning projects were explained to the campers as volunteering out of the kindness of their hearts. In the beginning of the summer, all the Bristol Boys & Girls Club staff set a goal for good characters, citizenship and leadership development for at least 75 percent of campers to perform 10 or more service learning activities.

Some of these activities completed by the campers were: helping with the dishes, carrying groceries, helping cook dinner, cleaning their rooms, picking up sticks after the recent tornado, donating painted pots and plants to the seniors, picking

up litter at the Bristol Beal's Senior Community Center and more.

One service learning project the camp did as a group was to collect stuffed animals for the Bristol Hospital EMS for children that have medical emergencies and needed to take a ride on an ambulance. The goal was to collect 75 stuffed animals before the end of the summer.

To get the campers to understand and personally relate to the importance of this project, they were told a story about one of their fellow campers who had to go on an ambulance due to a medical emergency. That camper was extremely scared and all that he wanted was to have the comfort of holding a stuffed animal. However, the ambulance did not have any stuffed animals, so while the camper was in the ER the EMS driver went out and purchased one to bring back to the ER for him. After the story was told to the campers, they were asked if



Children from the Bristol Boys and Girls Club Senior Center Summer Camp with some of the stuffed animals they collected for Bristol Hospital EMS members to give out to children who have medical emergencies.

they have ever ridden on an ambulance or if they were ever scared and just wanted to hold something soft.

Campers and staff were very excited about collecting the animals and within two weeks collected more than their original goal of 75. Even the seniors at the Beal's Community

Center were bringing in stuffed animals to help the cause. The group collected over 291 stuffed animals.

Some items in this article was referenced from the *Bristol Press*.

STAMFORD BGC HOSTS THE 2010 NORTHEAST REGIONAL KEYSTONE CONFERENCE

The 2010 Northeast Regional Keystone Conference was held in Stamford, CT November 5—7. There were 250 attendees from 31 different Clubs. Highlights of the conference were general session presenters Graham Fishman, Magician—"Don't let your dreams disappear," former UCONN women's basketball player Maria Conlon—"the Value of an Education," Rob the Drummer's unique presentation on changing the way you feel by doing positive things not drugs or alcohol, former Keystone Harold

"Butch" Gibbs-U.S. Navy talked about how the Club and Keystone gave him the tools he needed to succeed in the Navy and Katie Visco, the youngest female to run across the United States. The learning sessions also included group discussions on stress, self appearance, trust, bullying, choices, respect and violence. Program Excellence awards were presented to the Lower Naugatuck Valley, Stamford, Manchester New Hampshire, Buffalo New York, and Boston Mass. Boys and Girls Clubs. LNV-Ansonia unit's

advisor Michael Cotela, Jr. received the Regional Advisor of the Year award. The conference spent Saturday night at the Greenwich Boys and Girls Club participating in swimming, ice skating, dance, talent show, scavenger hunt, basketball and food. Connecticut members on the Steering Committee included, Stamford-Jeff Pytlak and Keystoner Immeley Royal, Wakeman-Southport-Maria Ci-mina and Keystoner Matt McTague, Greenwich-Melissa Hawkins and Keystoner Sam Derene, LNV-Mike Cotela, Jr., Ridge-

field-Kristin Concalves and Keystoner Allie Hughes. Jeff Pytlak and Mike Cotela, Jr. served as conference managers. The conference lived up to its motto: *Keystone State of Mind: Think Big, Dream Bigger.*

CONGRATULATIONS! NATIONAL YOUTH OF THE YEAR—ROMONIA “MONA” DIXON



Romonina “Mona” Dixon, National Youth of the Year, from the Boys and Girls Club of the East Valley in Arizona

On September 15, 2010 at the Congressional Breakfast in Washington, DC the National Youth of the Year was announced. This year’s candidate was Ms. Romonia “Mona” Dixon of the Boys and Girls Club of the East Valley in Arizona. The Youth of the Year event recognizes the highest honor a Club member can achieve. Since its inception in 1947, the Youth of the Year program has celebrated youth who have overcome enormous odds and demonstrated exceptional character and accomplishments. These deserving young people are recognized for service to their club and community, academic performance and contributions to their family.

For much of Romonia “Mona” Dixon’s life, she and her family were in constant state of change, moving from one homeless shelter to another in city after city. These difficult and challenging experiences led Mona to seek out a place that she could call “home.”

Mona found that place to call home when she joined Boys and Girls Club of the East Valley. From her first day at the Club, she took advantage of every available opportunity to teach younger children about the importance of being responsible, caring, productive members of society. To help ensure her family’s continued stability, Mona contributes to family income by working part time. She believes in turning setbacks in

life into motivators to succeed and uses her story to inspire others.

Mona strongly believes in community service and is a member of Keystone Club, a leadership and service group for teens. She also organized food drives, maintained a local park and participated in “Read to Me,” a volunteer program for children at a shelter where she once lived.

Last spring, Mona graduated third in her class at Tempe high School with a 3.92 GPA. She is currently a freshman at Arizona State University pursuing a master’s degree in International Retail Management.

Congratulations

Mona!

DENZIL WASHINGTON AND ROMONIA DIXON WORK WITH BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS TO HELP FIGHT DROPOUT RATES

Denzil Washington, National BGCA spokesperson and Romonia Dixon, this year’s National Youth of the Year both plan to fight the nation’s dropout rate. With the help of BGCA, a plan has been set up to refocus its program strategy toward ensuring that every member advances in school year and graduates from high school on time.

The program strategy is composed of three major areas—academic success, good character and leadership, and healthy lifestyles. The ultimate goal is to measure outcomes and curb the escalating high school dropout rate.

There are reports that the dropout rates are approaching 50% in some American communities. Many people think that its high school seniors that drop out. However, more than 67% of the dropouts happen before the 10th grade.

The hours between 3 and 6 are critical. Kids need homework help, tutors and mentors. The only place that they can get this is by belonging to a Boys and Girls Club.

The High School Dropout Crisis by the Numbers:

- Nationally, 1.3 million students in the Class of 2010 failed to graduate.

- One-third of America’s children do not graduate from high school.

- For Latino and African-American males, the rate skyrockets to nearly 50 percent.

- Every 26 seconds, another teen drops out of high school.

The U.S. is the only industrialized country where young people are less likely than their parents to obtain a high school diploma. Research indicates that young people who drop out of high school are more likely to be unemployed, be in poor health, be involved with

crime, use illegal drugs and become dependent on public assistance. They also are less likely to contribute to their communities in a meaningful way.

But the high school dropout crisis is a problem that can be solved, accordingly to Dr. Robert Balfanz of Johns Hopkins University. “It is possible to identify at an early age children at risk of dropping out of school,” said Balfanz. “The chances of changing a child’s course and helping them to graduate from high school are much more likely at a younger age.”

STATE YOUTH OF THE YEAR WILL HELP OVERSEE \$5 MILLION GRANT PROCESS THROUGH STATE FARM YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD

On November 19, 2010, Carlos Velazquez, 2010 *State Youth of the Year* from the Hartford Boys and Girls Club, was selected to serve as an Associate Board Member for the State Farm Youth Advisory Board.

He is one of 18 from across the United States and Canada selected through a competitive process based on youth leadership, experience and an interview. The State Farm Youth Advisory Board includes students ages 17 to 20. As a leadership board, they oversee a \$5 million-a-year State Farm-funded initiative.

The board members will oversee the awarding of grants to student-led service-learning projects, which will address important community issues like teen seat-belt use and disaster preparedness.

They will work in a virtual environment and convene for four meetings throughout the next year. The first 2011-2012 Board meeting will be at State Farm's Corporate Headquarters in Bloomington, Illinois on January 5, 2011.

"I am both humbled and honored to even be considered for this position. I intend on using my experience working in the community to make a national impact while on the State Farm Youth Advisory Board," said Carlos Velazquez, a first year student at Trinity College in Hartford.

Carlos will serve a one-year term with the opportunity to serve an additional year. He will commit about 15 hours a month to the Board. As an Associate Board Member, Carlos will receive a \$3,000 scholarship. He will be considered for a second term as a board member and

an additional \$5,000 scholarship. Board members use the scholarships for post-secondary education at a four-year, two-year or vocational training program.

"Carlos is an exceptional student leader in his community," said Robert Yi, Northeast Zone Senior Vice President. "The State Farm investment in young people through the Youth Advisory Board and funded projects reflects our sincere commitment to tapping into the passion and expertise of our younger generation."

In February, the board awarded grants to youth-led service-learning projects that addressed disaster preparedness, driver safety, financial education, environmental responsibility and access to higher education/closing the achievement gap.

Board members represent each of the 12 U.S. State Farm zones, the Canadian zone and represent our national service-learning partnerships.

For more information about the State Farm Youth Advisory Board visit www.statefarmyab.com.

About Service-learning:

Service-learning is a teaching method which supplements classroom studies with hands-on projects that address pressing community issues and problems. To learn more about service-learning, visit www.nylc.org, www.ysa.org, or the Youth Advisory Board website, at www.statefarmyab.com.

BGCs AROUND THE STATE HONOR MLK THROUGH MANY ACTIVITIES

On January 17, 2011, several Boys and Girls Clubs around the state honored Martin Luther King, Jr. by providing community service.

The Bristol BGC had a couple of events. The Imagine Nation Museum Club Unit participated in creating their own dream journals and dream catchers. Approximately 350 people participated. The Club, Community Health Center and the AmeriCorps volunteers hosted a phenomenal Martin Luther King Day of Service. 35

people participated by designing and implementing a beautiful mural.

The Milford BGC members and staff (28 people) participated in "A Trip Around the World." The members visited different stations of countries where they learned about the country's history and culture. They were provided with passports which they got stamped.

The Southeastern CT BGC had a community breakfast on January 17, 2011. Approximately 30 people

attended this event. They served breakfast for the New London homeless population. They also participated in a Martin Luther King vigil at City Hall and played Black History Jeopardy.

The Subase Youth Center in Groton also participated for Martin Luther King Day. They had an open mike night on Friday, January 14, 2011. 29 members and staff participated. They shared their dreams and inspirations. They also assisted in cleaning their club.

The Wakeman Stratfield Club in Southport had four of their Torch Club members make grill cheese sandwiches for approximately 32 residents at the Prospect House Shelter for the homeless. Four other Torch Club members created a bulletin board for Black History month. They also had a cook-off and served 120 meals at the Operation Hope and St. Charles Food Bank. There was also a presentation about Martin Luther King, Jr. which was presented to 58 people.

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS ON ADVENTURE AT BRISTOL BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

This past summer, some 53 middle schoolers had an adventure at the Middle School Summer Camp at the Bristol Boys and Girls Club.

"Kids want to have fun in the summer," said Jay Maia, Unit Director for the club's Cambridge Park outreach unit. "I think (the camp's) fun and engaging."

Some of the activities at the camp included: swimming, field trips at Rockwell Park. But, the camp is about more than fun in the summer sun.

Maia, who is organizing the camp out of the Club's Laurel Street site, explained the camp centers around three core development areas: academic success, living a healthy lifestyle, and building good character and citizenship.

One the area of academic success, the summer camp has placed an emphasis on reading. Campers read about 1/2 hour a day, whether reading for school or enjoyment and have been treated to a tour of the library to get them accustomed to how to find their way around the library.

Jonathan Paradis, Education and Technology Director for the Club, wasn't sure if the children would take to the library. However, to his surprise, the children more than embraced the library, some took out more than one book at a time.

"The kids have really taken to it...It was really

good to see it," Paradis said.

Trips to the library have encompassed more than reading, the children have used their time there to look up and print healthy food recipes as part of the camp's focus on building healthy habits. Healthy habits are built into the structure of the camp as well. Three times a week, the campers walk the mile to and from Rockwell Park for swimming.

When it comes to building good character and citizenship, the camp has taken a very hands on approach. One such endeavor was easy to spot one morning recently as all 53 campers could be seen picking up trash at Brackett Park.

The trash pick up is just one example of the community-minded events the campers have taken on, explained Steve Beecher, Physical Director of the Club. He said the children have also read to pre-kindergarten students and have participated in a recycling program.

Beecher said the hands-on approach the club has taken with community projects allows the children to see that their actions do make a difference. "I think it's good for them to realize they're actually making a difference," Beecher said.

This year, the campers earned Boys and Girls Clubs Bucks, fake money with pictures of staff members on it, for the work they do.

The idea, Maia explained, ties into a national

program for the Club called Money Matters. The program promotes financial responsibility and budgeting and focuses on building fiscal management skills.

As campers earn money, they can deposit it into "Ms. Amber's Bank," run by Club staff member Amber Martin.

Martin explained that the children can deposit or withdraw money from the bank, but every transaction is handled just like at a real bank with withdraw and deposit slips.

The Club has its own store where campers can use their "Club Bucks" to buy items ranging from arts and craft supplies to iPods or a DVD player.

"I think they're really learning how to ration their money and the importance of saving," said Martin.

It's a lesson that hasn't been lost on Sam Fennelly and Jordan Hultz. Hultz said he is saving his money for a basketball hoop, while Fennelly has her eye on the DVD player.

While the two campers have learned a lesson in money management, overall they have enjoyed their time at the camp whether playing games or going on field trips.

Article from "The Step Saver/The Observer"



Carmelo Arondo and Rose Lombardi make a deposit to their Money Matters accounts through Amber Martin at the Bristol Boys & Girls Club

THE GREENWICH BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB MARKS ITS "100TH" BIRTHDAY

The Greenwich Boys and Girls Club may be celebrating its 100th birthday, but step inside and you find the heart of an eight-year-old. Iris Shi is a first-grader from central Greenwich. Like more than two hundred other children, she comes here nearly every day after school. Ask her what she likes about the club, and she provides a literal running monologue. From room-to-room she follows closely on your heels to tell you about the turtle she made from yarn, the Sisters Grimm book she just finished, and how her brother Jason is one of the club's chess grandmasters. Just try packing as much energy in a month of living as Iris does in a single answer. "I like playing tag,

turtle tag and mosquito tag," she explains. "I play turtle tag at school, and mosquito tag here. Mosquito tag is like regular tag, except when you get tagged in mosquito tag, you have to pretend you're itching."

Another club kid, nine-year-old Ahmed Sambo likes everything about the Club, especially making friends. He says, "there are so many kids to make friends with."

Thirteen-year-old Moises Cebanos also enjoys the Club. Club activities are structured around a fairly rigid formula of doing something different every forty minutes. Moises explains, "you have more freedom here than you do hanging around the house."

Even while playing basketball, Moises says "With everything at the Club, you try to go at a different level to get better."

"That's something I have learned to do here, to push myself." Just take those words, multiply it by several thousand, and you have the Club's operating philosophy in practice.

Activities include afternoons of supervised recreation and educational programs, evenings of team sports, and summers at the Club's back-country home-away-from-home, seventy-seven acre Camp Simmons off Lake Avenue. Call the Boys and Girls Club what you will; just don't call it day care. "We don't like that term," says Bob DeAngelo, the Club's Executive Director

since 1998. "It implies babysitting. We like to feel we are character-building."

Some alumni from the Greenwich Boys and Girls Club, Bob DeAngelo, Executive Director of the Greenwich Boys and Girls Club; Peter Tesei, future First Selectman of Glenville; Winston Robinson, a manager at the Greenwich Housing Authority; George Bodenheimer, today president of ESPN and ABC sports; and Keith Ward, today a bank executive at Morgan Stanley.

The Club has always been a remarkably diverse place, geographically drawing from all parts of town. Hispanics, Asians, blacks and whites flow through the corridors while mixing easily with each other.

THE BUDDY-UP TRIATHLON FOR KIDS—FUN FOR THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF GREENWICH

On Friday, September 22nd, 2010, the Greenwich Boys and Girls Club held their 2nd Annual Buddy-Up for Kids Triathlon at Camp Simmons on 744 Lake Avenue in Greenwich. Thirty adults and thirty kids teamed up together to have fun. They participated in 3 legs of the triathlon: 1) 1/2 mile trail jog that included an easy rock scramble through the famous "Lemon Squeezer" rock cropping; 2) traversed a 40 foot segment of the lake on a "burma bridge" cable bridge and jump in a canoe where your "buddy" paddled around the lake and 3) jogged to an archery range

where they shot some arrows and then traversed the horizontal climbing wall and obstacle course. Later they enjoyed a BBQ and bonfire. You can bet that next year's triathlon will be even better. Mr. Joseph Andreana, Executive Director of the CT Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs, Inc. and Jill Terrell-Ouazanni (AmeriCorps/VISTA) were among the participants.



Elvis, Greenwich BGC member, Mr. Joseph Andreana, Executive Director of the CT Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs, Jill Terrell-Ouazanni (AmeriCorps/VISTA) member and Valeria, Greenwich BGC member

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF NEW BRITAIN ALUMNUS IS KING OF POP IMPERSONATOR



Joby Rogers impersonating Michael Jackson, alumnus of the New Britain Boys and Girls Club



Larry St. Pierre with Joby Rogers performing in "The Ultimate Michael Jackson Experience"

Back in the mid 1970s, Joby Rogers was a typical club kid. He lived in one of New Britain's housing projects with his single mom and sister. He came to the club with his friends after school and on weekends to play air hockey and basketball. He credits the Club for teaching him how to swim and keeping him out of trouble. Rogers performed for the first time at the E.C. Goodwin Technical School's junior prom. While still in high school, he already had a steady job impersonating Michael Jackson for a company that did kid's parties for \$35 a performance. It was after high school he began doing the Jackson impersonation full-time in an off-Broadway show called "Café Society." It was here that Joby learned the makeup techniques that allow him to acquire Jackson's look.

The transformation takes about an hour and a half with the help of hair, makeup and costumes. But it's when he

dances that he becomes a near-exact replica of the pop phenomenon. His moves, his expressions and the way he lip-synchs the songs makes you believe he really is Michael Jackson.

It took many years of practice perfecting the dancing and mannerisms of the "King of Pop" and that earned him the distinction of being the only impersonator to ever grace the cover of "Rolling Stone" magazine.

The only Michael Jackson impersonator to be officially approved by MJ himself (and has a signed statement to prove it) Joby now takes his nationally acclaimed show and travels the world to keep Michael's legacy alive. "The Ultimate Michael Jackson Experience" is a performance that reflects Jackson's dance style and likeness along with the songs that topped the charts.

So what does a world famous impersonator do after he travels the world? He comes home to give back to the Club that was there for him when he needed it most.

On October 16, 2010, at Central Connecticut State University's Welte Auditorium, Joby performed a benefit show for the Boys and Girls Club of News Britain. The show is emotional to begin with because Joby puts it all out there. From his performance of "Smooth Criminal" to "Thriller," the array of emotion he displays is incredible. But on the night of October 16, that emotion exploded as he performed "Man in the Mirror." He came into the audience several times to hug supporters. In the ultimate show of love for those that came out to see him and support the Club, he dropped to the floor in tears, show how truly blessed he felt to be on stage. When the show came to an end, he thanked the Boys

and Girls Club for helping to raise him as a child.

It's so important to note, that fame has not changed the humble guy who once roamed the halls of what was then just a Boy's Club. His great-nephew, Larry St. Pierre, is a member of the Boys and Girls Club of New Britain now and also performs in "The Ultimate Michael Jackson Experience" as a very young Michael Jackson performing with the Jackson 5.

"A little Michael Jackson would remind people of what Michael's music meant to them. Going back to where it all started would be a good way to end the show," Joby said.

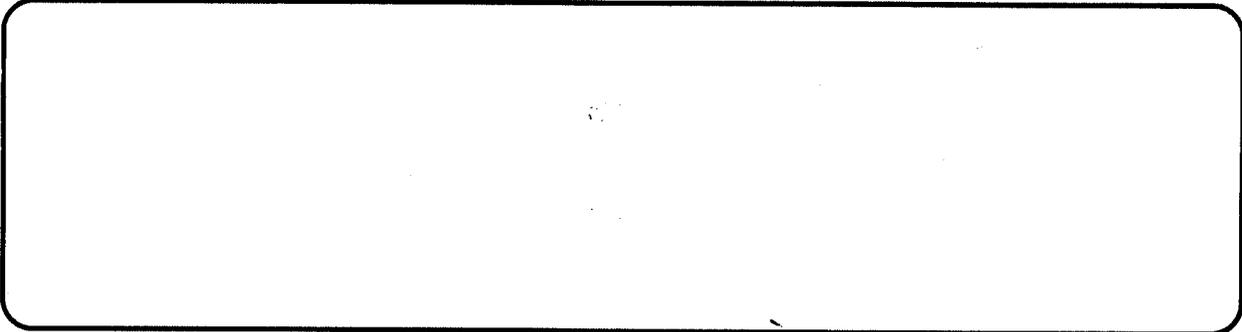
We couldn't agree more.

CONNECTICUT ALLIANCE OF BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS, INC.

Primary Business Address
CT Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs, Inc.
P.O. Box 209
One Positive Place
Shelton, CT 06484

Phone: (203) 924-7462
Fax: (203) 924-7912
E-mail: joeandreaana@bgc-Inv.org

The *Connecticut Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs, Inc.* was established in 2003 to promote the social welfare of the boys and girls that are served by the sixteen Connecticut Boys & Girls Clubs.



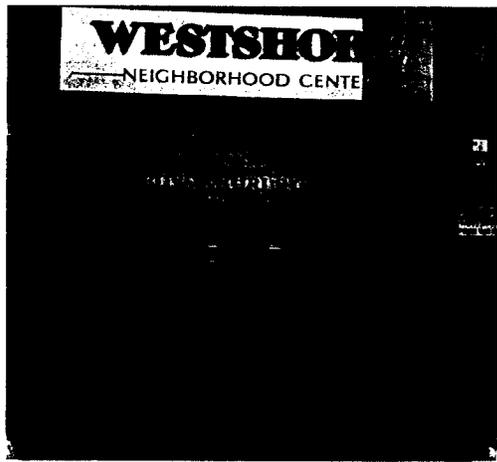
BGC of Milford—Number 17?

With 6 part-time staff members and 23 Board of Directors, the Milford Club has come a long way since opening their doors in April 2008. They are now a 501C-3 non profit organization and are filling out an application to the Boys and Girls Clubs of America to be chartered as the 17th Boys and Girls Club organization in Connecticut. The plan is to submit their application by April 1 and hopefully become the 17th Connecticut Boys and Girls Club organization sometime in June.

Exciting things have been happening at the Boys and Girls Club of Milford located at 14 Benham Avenue. Besides having 176 kids participate in any one of the 14 programs that

the club provides, the club has been planning other events that will involve the city of Milford. One such event will be "Pumpkins on the Pier," which will be held on October 15, 2011. Other programs include Project Learn, SMART Moves, Date SMART, Model Club, Keystone Club, Torch Club, other programs provided by the Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

In addition to these exciting programs, the Milford Boys and Girls Club is partnered with the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization in their mentoring program. They are also partnered with Cablevision, which has a program on how to prevent kids from cyber-bullying.



If you would like more information about the Milford Club, please contact Megan Altomare, Executive Director at (203) 877-1572 or the main clubhouse at (203) 500-6301.



The Boys & Girls Club of Ridgefield is a youth activity center offering school-aged youth opportunities to learn and grow under the supervision of trained youth development professionals.

AFTER SCHOOL CREW MEMBERSHIP

After School Crew Members participate in the Arts, Sports & Recreation, Character & Leadership, Health & Wellness and Education programming.

Register online at bgcridgefield.org or by calling 203-438-8821 ext 16.

Fees for After School Crew Membership:

Elementary School \$270/through end of 2010-2011 school year + \$50 registration fee

Middle School \$210/ through end of 2010-2011 school year + \$50 registration fee

High School \$72/ through end of 2010-2011 school year + \$50 registration fee

WINTER AFTER SCHOOL CREW SCHEDULE

The After School Crew programming schedule is subject to changes with the exception of:
Sandlot Sports, Ceramics and ZUMBA.

The ARTS	Ceramics (extra program fee)	Craft Corner	Open Studio: Drawing	Open Studio: Painting	Drama Matters Paper Arts
Sports & Fitness	Sandlot Sports: Flag Football	Fitness with Pete McLean	Sandlot Sports: Indoor Soccer	ZUMBA	OPEN GYM
Character & Leadership		TORCH CLUB	PM: KEYSTONE CLUB		
Education & Technology	POWER HOUR Unopened Book	POWER HOUR	POWER HOUR	POWER HOUR Unopened Book	POWER HOUR
Health & Wellness	Healthy Habits	Walking Program	SMART GIRLS	Walking Program	

BENEFITS OF AN AFTER SCHOOL CREW (ASC) MEMBERSHIP:

Membership in the After School Crew allows unlimited visits to the Club after school, during selected school holidays, and half-day/professional days when school is closed.

ASC Members will be exposed to programming that allows them to explore five core developmental areas:

- Sports & Fitness
- Character & Leadership
- The Arts
- Health & Wellness
- Education & Technology

After completing their homework during our **POWER HOUR**, youth are encouraged to participate in programming to help them learn and grow. Youth can purchase healthy snacks from our **SNACK SHACK**.

Club-wide contests and team building activities include **Question of the Day**, **Wordle** and Club-wide reading programs.

Our Games Room provides a space for youth to relax and enjoy daily tournaments in foosball, pool, air hockey and the Club's own Gockey and Carpetball.

High School and Middle School members volunteer as mentors throughout the Club daily.

WINTER PROGRAMS

Registration for all programs requires a \$50 registration fee each academic year.
Register online at www.bgcridgefield.org or by calling 203-438-8821 ext 16.

SPORTS & FITNESS

SANDLOT SPORTS – all Sandlot Sports are included in the After School Crew Membership
Sandlot sports encourage participation and team spirit. Fundamentals are taught and all players have a chance to play.

Flag Football, Grades 2-5 – Fee \$100
Mondays, 4:45-5:30

Indoor Soccer, Grades 2-5 – Fee \$100
Wednesdays, 4:45 – 5:30

MINI MEMBERS – Fee \$100
Youth in grades K-1 have a chance to experience the Club with supervised activities in all areas of the facility.
Tues. & Thurs., 4:45 – 6:00

ZUMBA

ZUMBA incorporates Latin dance moves, musical exercise and fun all in a jam-packed 45 minutes.

Grades 4 - 12 – Fee \$85 - includes After School Crew Membership
Thursdays, 4:30 – 5:15

DOIN' TIME BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL

This is an indoor training opportunity for all ages. The Club's indoor batting cage includes a turf roll out, batting rug and industrial pitching machine. Players have a place to train, develop and get repetitions.

Girls JR Softball Academy (Ages 8-12) 6:00pm - 7:15pm - 7 Clinics - Fee \$175

Girls SR Softball Academy (Ages 13-18) 7:30 - 8:45pm - 7 Clinics – Fee \$175

Clinic Dates: Monday 1/31, Friday 2/4, Monday 2/14, Friday 2/25, Monday 3/7, Friday 3/11, Friday 3/18

JR Baseball Academy (Ages 8-12) 6:00pm - 7:15pm - 7 Clinics - Fee \$175

SR Baseball Academy (Ages 13-18) 7:30pm - 8:45pm - 7 Clinics - Fee \$175

Clinic Dates: Friday 2/4, Monday 2/14, Friday 2/18, Monday 2/28, Friday 3/4, Monday 3/14, Monday 3/21

THE ARTS

CERAMICS WITH SALLY

Young artists will have fun learning basic ceramic techniques including the pottery wheel and glazing. Pieces will be glazed and fired on-site in our kiln.

Grades 2-8 – Fee \$85
Mondays, 4:15 – 5:30

CHARACTER & LEADERSHIP

The Boys & Girls Club Youth service club gives our youth an opportunity to give back to the community and build their cooperation and leadership skills.

TORCH CLUB – Grades 6-8, Tuesdays, New Member Fee \$60

KEYSTONE CLUB – Grades 9-12, Wednesdays, 7:00 – 8:15, New Member Fee \$80



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF RIDGEFIELD**

It is the mission of the Boys & Girls Club of Ridgefield to inspire and enable all youth to reach their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible citizens.

41 Governor Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877

T. 203-438-8821

F. 203-438-0676

www.bgcridgefield.org

Email: register@bgcridgefield.org