

# BE GREAT



# SUMMER 2009

NEWSLETTER



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA



# BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF NEPA GETS READY FOR SUMMER!

The Boys and Girls Clubs of NEPA kicked off its summer programming in June. The Summer Camp, Basketball and Football Camps, Park It Program, and Hyland Day Picnic will fill the summer with fun and excitement, and at the same time keep them safe and out of trouble.

All of the programs fall into the Club's five core areas of programming: character and leadership development; education and career development; the arts; sports, fitness and recreation; and health and life skills. Summer Camp will host several programs for boys and girls, ages 6 to 18, to engage in positive choices, competitiveness and health.

**Summer Camp** will run until August 28, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. with additional early bird and after care. Cost for camp is \$70 per week. Sign up your child anytime at the Scranton location from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. It is open to all children ages 6 to 18.

“Our Summer Camp is a safe, fun and affordable place for children to come to during the summertime. It provides a wide range of activities that stimulates the

children's mind and body,” explains Richard Kasavage, Club director.

Some of the activities include: swimming, arts and crafts, special events/field tips, game room activities, athletics, educational programs, computer lab with Internet access and much more.

The Club is also offering **Summer Basketball and Football Camps**. Basketball Camp will be held from August 4th to the 7th at the Scranton location's gymnasium from 8:00 a.m. to Noon. Cost is \$50.00. This camp is for boys and girls ages 7 through 14 years old, and is staffed by Coach Gibbons. Instructional Football Camp was held July 6th through July 10th also held at the Scranton facility's gymnasium from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for boys and girls ages 6 through 13 years of age. Staff consisted of Director Donnie Jackson Bey, head football coach of the local NEPA Miners, and local high school standouts. This instructional football camp was intended to help campers develop and maintain proper running, catching and throwing mechanics. This was a non-contact camp.





“The organization believes there is a need for programs that offer quality instruction and are affordable to all youth athletes. As an organization that recognizes the needs of today’s athletes, we believe all children involved in sports should be taught the basics at their own pace to ensure they absorb the proper fundamentals necessary for competitive play,” explains Director of Athletics Lloyd Blackwell.

Campers in both the Basketball and Football Camps will be provided a lunch daily but may bring his or her lunch if preferred. Each camper receives a tee-shirt. Parents and relatives may attend any and all practice sessions. Hurry and register for these camps as they usually fill quickly. For more information contact Director of Athletics Lloyd Blackwell at (570) 342-8709 ext. 121.

The **Park It Program** will take place from June 22nd to August 28th from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This program takes place on site at the following schools: Bancroft Elementary, John Adams Elementary, McNichols Plaza Elementary and West Scranton High School. Activities include board games, arts and crafts, lunch, snack, field games and much more. This program is for boys and girls ages 6 through 18. This program is free of charge. Registration takes place on site. For more information please contact Director of Operations Laura Gentile at (570) 342-8709 ext. 114.

The Club’s annual **Hyland Day Picnic** will be held on August 26, 2009 at Weston Park in Scranton. The children will have a day full of field activities, hamburgers and hotdogs, blueberry pie and watermelon eating contests, and lots of fun! This end of the summer picnic for Club members is made possible by Dr. Bernard Hyland. Dr. Hyland is a Club Alumnus, and now likes to give back to the Club by sponsoring this wonderful picnic for Club members. A special thank you to Dr. Hyland for hosting the end of the summer picnic. Check out the pictures from last year’s picnic.



# THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF NEPA PROUDLY ANNOUNCES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



A long standing Club employee, Tricia DiBiasi Thomas, has recently been named Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

In her new position, Ms. Thomas is responsible for managing the overall planning and operation of the Club.

She is also providing direction to the staff, ensuring the development and implementation of the agency's strategic plan, overseeing programming and financial management, developing strategic alliances and collaborative partnerships, and managing marketing and technology functions.

“We are very pleased and excited to have Tricia take the helm,” says former Board President Joe Migliorino. He added, “We are fortunate to have someone with such a broad knowledge of the Club and the attributes to be a successful CEO. The Boys & Girls Clubs will be in good hands under Tricia's leadership.”

Ms. Thomas started with the Club in October 1994 as the Program Director for the West Side Unit. She was active with the daily delivery of programs, services and activities for the members.

In January of 1998, Tricia was promoted to the Director of the West Side Club. In that capacity, she was responsible for the supervision of staff, facility management, marketing, staff recruitment/development, policy and procedures, and program activities.

In September 2000, she directed the start-up of the organizations' sites in Luzerne County. As the Public Housing Drug Elimination Program Director, Ms. Thomas was in charge of staff, volunteers, budgets, services delivery, reports, and various other record-keeping and programming activities.

In May of 2003, Ms. Thomas was promoted to the Director of Operations. In that position, she was responsible for general administration, program development and implementation, facility management, staff development and training, recruiting and hiring staff, and assisting the Executive Director with many facets of that position.

In 2006, when the organization went through a restructuring of staff, Tricia took on the challenging position of Development Director. In that capacity, she has been responsible for all facets of grant writing, special events and fundraising.

“I am thrilled to take on this new challenge in my career here at the Boys & Girls Clubs”, shares Ms. Thomas. “I look forward to working with our Board of Directors and Community Leaders to ensure that the Club remains solvent and relevant in our ever changing society.”

Ms. Thomas received her Bachelor of Arts in Social Welfare from Bloomsburg University and her Master of Social Work from Marywood University. She has attended numerous continuing education seminars offered by local agencies and various workshops, institutes and conferences organized by Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

She resides in Dickson City with her husband, Jeff and daughter, Concetta.

## Dear Friends of the Club,

As the school year comes to a close there is no doubt we had a very busy year. We have held fundraisers such as our Champion of Youth event; we have conducted exciting programs such as our Youth of the Year event; and we have served over 1,000 boys and girls ages six to 18 throughout Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties.

Throughout this year, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeastern Pennsylvania has had the privilege to provide outstanding programs to our local children and youth due to the generosity and the support of many foundations, corporations, civic organizations, government agencies and individuals. We are truly grateful for the commitment of the various funding sources for their belief in our work.

That being said, the most generous gift we receive comes every day. This is when parents send their children to the Club for our programs. This is a tremendous responsibility, but we look at it as an opportunity to mold and shape the lives of the 1,000 plus children who come through our doors. It is very challenging, but truly worthwhile.

While we look back at the past program year, we can also look forward to a summer full of fun and excitement. Our Summer Programs provide peace of mind for families to know their children are spending their summers in safe places and in a constructive manner. We have so much to offer over the summer. From the first day of camp right up to the end of summer/Hyland Day picnic, our members are kept busy and engaged.

The Clubs' most recent initiative is BE GREAT, a new brand campaign aimed to strengthen awareness of the Boys & Girls Clubs Movement. As you continue to read our newsletter you will learn about this new and exciting project. We hope you will participate in the BE GREAT campaign so as a community we can influence what we would like to see our youngsters to "be".

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you. If you are getting this newsletter, you are a friend of the Club. We appreciate our friends, and hope that you continue your involvement with us. With your help, we can continue to encourage our members to "BE GREAT!"

With Gratitude,  
Tricia DiBiasi Thomas

# KID'S KORNER

## BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF NEPA NAMES 2009 YOUTH OF THE YEAR

Markis Blackwell, a 15-year-old from Mid Valley High School, has been named the Boys & Girls Clubs of NEPA's 2009 Youth of the Year. Markis recently represented the Boys & Girls Clubs of NEPA in Harrisburg for the state Youth of the Year competition and was awarded first place in academic achievement. As the first place winner he was awarded a \$1,000 college scholarship and a \$100 gift certificate. Markis wants to attend the University of Pennsylvania to become a pediatrician. Being named Youth of the Year is the highest honor a Boys & Girls Clubs member can receive.

Thank you to *Anonymous* for the generous donation to support this program.



*Pictured (l-r) are Laura Gentile, director of operations; Tricia DiBiasi Thomas, executive director; Markis Blackwell, first-place winner; and Devon Fawcett, guest speaker from Johnson College.*



*Club members were judged on family, school, community and Boys & Girls Clubs involvement, as well as personal challenges and obstacles overcome. Pictured are judges (l-r) Kevin Rogers, representing the Margaret Briggs Foundation and PNC Bank; Joe Peters, Boys & Girls Clubs alumnus; and Jerry Klein, board member and Gelb Foundation.*



# BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF NEPA CELEBRATES 16TH ANNUAL CHAMPION OF YOUTH CELEBRATION

The Club recently honored five community individuals for their outstanding efforts in supporting community youth at its 16th Annual Champion of Youth Reception held at Glenmaura National Golf Club. Each honoree was recognized because they exemplify the ideals of being a “Champion of Youth”. This year the Club proudly recognized: Louis Costanzo, Gordon Florey, Dan Meuser, and Attys. Judith and Joseph Price.

According to Tricia DiBiasi Thomas, executive director, “Each ‘Champion of Youth’ has given selflessly of their time and resources to ensure every child in our community will realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens.”

At the event each honoree was awarded with the first ever Louis C. DelPrete award in honor of the Boys & Girls Clubs of NEPA’s former executive director.

Thank you to everyone who helped made this event a success. A special thank you to the 2009 sponsors:

- Gold: L.R. Costanzo Company
- Silver: Gertrude Hawk Chocolates, Dan Meuser and M&T Bank
- Bronze: Keystone Sanitary Landfill, North American Manufacturing Co., Inc., Patse’s, Penn Security Bank & Trust, and PNC Bank.
- Our media sponsors: 105 The River, The Electric City Newspaper and Fox 56.

TO SEE MORE PICTURES  
FROM THIS YEAR'S  
EVENT GO TO:  
[WWW.BGCNEPA.ORG](http://WWW.BGCNEPA.ORG)



## **Louis A. Costanzo**

Louis A. Costanzo, president of L.R. Costanzo Company has been a board member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeastern Pennsylvania for 21 years. Mr. Costanzo is also chair of the Club’s Building and Property Committee.

Additionally, he sits on the Board of Johnson College, and is involved with the Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce, the Holy Family Residence and The Church of St. Gregory’s. He resides in Clarks Green with his wife, Dianne, and is the proud father of Dena, Louis E. and Andrew.



## **Dan Meuser**

Dan Meuser is the former President of Pride USA. Dan was with Pride Mobility Products Corporation for 20 years, serving as President of Pride USA for almost seven of those years. He currently serves on the Board

of the Wilkes-Barre YMCA, Board of Trustees of Misericordia University and participates in various community causes including the United Way, St. Jude Hospital, American Cancer Society and is the Wyoming Valley Children’s Association Capital Campaign Chairman. Mr. Meuser serves as Vice Chair of the Finance Committee for the Pennsylvania Republican State Party and is very active in local, state and federal politics. He resides in the Back Mountain with his wife, Shelley; daughters, Caroline & Jacqueline; and son, Daniel.



**Gordon Florey**

Gordon Florey, a retired plumber, has served on the board of directors at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeastern Pennsylvania for 35 years. Being an astute business man, he has also been the treasurer of The

Club for the past 14 years. He previously served on the board of directors as vice president. Mr. Florey is also a member of the High Rollers Bowling League, the West Scranton Church Golf League, Simpson Methodist Church, Elm Park Church, American Legion and Destroyer Escort Sailors Association. In his spare time, Mr. Florey serves on many boards of directors. He has been on the board of directors at North Penn Bank for 30 years. He has also been named president and CEO of Ariel Landowners Inc. for over 30 years. Mr. Florey serves on the executive committee of the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast. Mr. Florey resides with his wife, Marilyn, in Scranton. They have been married for 58 years and have been blessed with three sons: Scot, Mark and Kirk; and four grandchildren: Scot Jr., Jacob, Stephen and Carrie.



**Joseph Price**

Attorney Joseph G. Price is a member of the civil litigation law firm of Dougherty, Leventhal & Price. He is currently the President of the Lackawanna Bar Association. Attorney

Price has been active with the youth of Lackawanna County for many years. He is the President and Co-founder of the Minooka Athletic Association which helped construct the athletic fields in the Minooka section of Scranton. Attorney Price currently serves as the Treasurer for the Board of Directors of St. Joseph's Center, Dunmore. He is also a Member of the Board of Directors of the Toyota Pavilion Performing Arts Center at Montage and Lackawanna Pro Bono. Attorney's Judith and Joseph Price reside in the Minooka section of Scranton. They have four children: Judith Ann, Colleen, Joseph, Jr. and James.



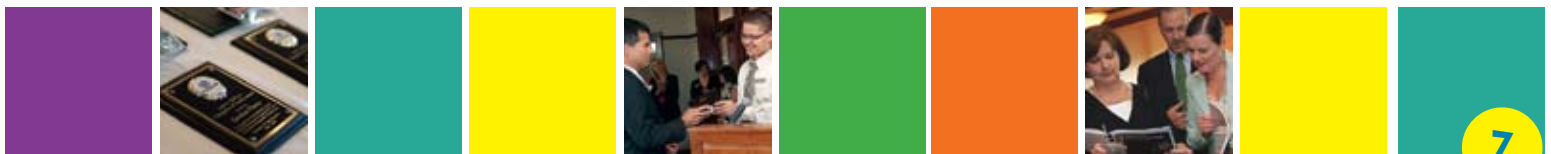
**Judith Price**

For the past 20 years Judith G. Price has been affiliated with the law firm of Dougherty, Leventhal & Price. In 1989 Judy co-founded the St. Joseph's Girls Biddy Basketball League for the City of

Scranton where she served as the Executive Director of the League, team coach, all-star coach, and league referee for 15 years. She is presently a member of the Board of Directors of Lackawanna County Catholic Social Services, a member of the St. Jude's Pastoral Council, Lackawanna Bar Association, the Pennsylvania and American Bar Associations, Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association, and the Federal Bar Association of the Middle District of Pennsylvania.



*At the event Mary Ann LaPorta, board member, (l) and Markis Blackwell, (r) Boys & Girls Clubs' Youth of the Year, presented each honoree with the first ever Louis C. DelPrete award in honor of the Clubs' former executive director.*



# SAVE THE DATE: 10TH ANNUAL CAPTAIN & CREW GOLF TOURNAMENT

October 7, 2009

Glen Oak Country Club, Clarks Summit

The Boys & Girls Clubs of NEPA is once again hosting its annual Golf Tournament. Lunch begins at 11:00 a.m.; shotgun start takes place at Noon; and dinner and cocktails immediately follow.

There are many ways you/your company can support this important fundraiser. They include:

- **Put on your golf shoes and golf.** There are golf packages available for single golfers (\$185) and teams of four (\$740). Lunch and dinner are included. The number of golfers is limited, so please register early.
- **Become a Corporate Sponsor:** For a donation of \$2,000, we provide your company/you with a full page advertisement in our program book, a hole/tee sponsorship, golf for your captain and

three crew members, lunch, dinner and a large sign (4x6 vinyl) with your company name and logo/your name displayed at the event. This year we are also offering a corporate sponsorship for \$2,000 without a golf crew.

- **Be a Golden Bear:** For \$1,000 you will receive a full page advertisement in the program booklet, a hole/tee sponsorship, golf for your captain and three crew members, and lunch and dinner.
- **Sign up to be a Hole/Tee Sponsor.** This year we have maintained our hole/tee price at \$150. For your investment, we will place your company and logo/your name at the hole or tee (22 inch round sign).
- **Donate as a Halfway House Sponsor:** Donate \$500 to provide food/refreshments/snacks/etc. at the 9th hole for the golfers. You/your company will receive recognition at the event (3x5 vinyl banner).



## CHECK OUT PICTURES FROM LAST YEAR'S EVENT!



- **Assign your company/yourself as the Reception or Lunch Sponsor:** For \$1,500 you/your company will receive a full page advertisement in the program booklet, a hole/tee sponsorship, golf for your captain and 1 crew member, recognition at the event (4x6 vinyl banner), and lunch and dinner.
- **Provide prize drawings and special giveaways.**
- **A gift certificate or some trademark from your organization** can prove to be valuable advertising for your business. We are also in need of prizes for "Special Contests". Appropriate prizes for such contests are golf items such as clubs, balls, etc.
- **Attend the dinner.** For only \$75 you can support the Club and enjoy a delicious dinner.

The proceeds of this golf tournament support the quality educational and recreational programs offered by the Club. Due to the popularity of this tournament, last year's event sold out within 3 weeks. To guarantee your tee-time please register by August 20, 2009. For more information, please contact Julianne Kalasinski, development director at (570) 342-8709 ext. 110.

## Dear Club Supporters,

It has been an honor and pleasure to serve on the Board of Directors at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeastern Pennsylvania over the last several years. We have created many positive changes and improvements that truly benefited our Club members. For example, the Club gym was recently renovated through the generosity of Gertrude Hawk Chocolates. The Club was named as the sole beneficiary of their annual golf fundraising event. Now the Club members have a gym they are proud of and use on a daily basis.

The dedication that the board of directors and staff show to our organization illustrates the true concern that we all feel toward the Club and our members. I have been a board member of the Club for over seven years, and I look forward to continuing my service to the Club. As I embark upon my new role as Board President, I will give every effort to continue the great work that has been accomplished. I look forward to creating many positive memories for the children and youth we serve.

I would like to congratulate and thank Joseph Migliorino for his outstanding efforts and dedication as Board President over the last two years. His contribution to the Club is immeasurable. Thank you, Joe.

I would also like to thank you, as a supporter of the Club, for your continued support and interest in our mission to inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.



Sincerely,  
John A. Kramer Jr.  
Gertrude Hawk Chocolates  
Director of Purchasing



# THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

- The Boys & Girls Clubs of NEPA recently conducted a check presentation with The Comcast Foundation to present the Club with a \$10,000 donation to support its After School POWER Hour Program and Computer Education Program. This grant from The Comcast Foundation is in recognition of Comcast's commitment to the communities where its customers and employees live and work. Since its founding in 1999, The Comcast Foundation has distributed more than \$50 million in support of programs implemented locally in Comcast communities.
- The Boys & Girls Clubs of NEPA recently conducted a check presentation with The Wachovia Foundation to present the Club with a \$2,500 donation to support its After School POWER Hour Program and Computer Education Program.
- The city of Scranton recently donated \$10,000 to the Boys & Girls Clubs of NEPA to support its summer programming.
- Thank you to Terry Kaly from Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, a friend of the Fox family, for her generous donation to the Club.
- Thank you to the Scranton Area Foundation for their recent donation to our Meal Service Program.



*At The Comcast Foundation check presentation are (l-r) Johnye Hoyes, Comcast marketing operations manager; Elizabeth Turner, Comcast senior director, government & community affairs; Tricia DiBiasi Thomas, executive director; Julianne Kalasinski, development director; and John Kramer, Boys & Girls Clubs of NEPA former vice president.*



*At The Wachovia Foundation check presentation are (l-r) Tricia DiBiasi Thomas, executive director; Beverley Wallace, Wachovia assistant vice president; and Julianne Kalasinski, development director.*



*At the check presentation are (l-r) Tricia DiBiasi Thomas, executive director; Laura Gentile, director of operations; Christopher Doherty, mayor of Scranton; and Julianne Kalasinski, development director.*

# DONATE

There are many ways you can “DONATE” to our organization. You may participate in one of our special events such as our Golf Tournament or you can attend our Champion of Youth Reception; you may contribute financially to our Annual ONE Campaign; you may give us useful in-kind products such as food and supplies suitable for youth; you may give your time and talents by volunteering; and you may even leave us in your will!



The Boys and Girls Clubs of NEPA is now accepting general donations on-line. For more information go to our website at [www.bgcnepa.org](http://www.bgcnepa.org) or contact our Development Director Julianne Kalasinski at (570) 342-8709 ext. 110. Thank you!

## BE GREAT

BE GREAT is an idea which communicates the vital role Boys & Girls Clubs play in helping young people find

and achieve their dreams. It is an idea that communicates to each child that there is the potential for greatness, and all of us play a vital role in helping young people find and achieve their dreams. Our young people know they can BE GREAT because we have created a seamless network of support for them with some 4,300 Boys & Girls Clubs across the country where caring concerned adults tell them so every day.

### WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO A KID ABOUT HOW TO “BE”?

Help inspire our youth to think about what they can aspire to be. For only \$25 tell them what you want them to be. Cut out the blank BE GREAT card on the back of this page and mail it to us. When the card is returned, we will place it on our Club wall so each and every day our children will see what you want them to “BE”. For more information please contact Development Director Julianne Kalasinski at 570-342-8709 ext. 110 or [jkalasinski@bgcnepa.org](mailto:jkalasinski@bgcnepa.org). For sample BE GREAT cards, visit [www.bgcnepa.org](http://www.bgcnepa.org).

**BE GREAT. BE INDEPENDENT. BE CLEVER. BE CURIOUS. WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO A FRIEND ABOUT HOW TO BE? ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS CARD, FILL IN THE BLANK. NOW IS YOUR CHANCE TO BE FUNNY, CUTE, SINCERE, SMART. AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, BE GREAT.**





**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

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WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO A KID ABOUT HOW TO "BE"?

*See page 11 for more information on our BE Great Program*



**\$25 ENCLOSED**

Name:

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Address:

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Phone:

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Email:

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**Please Mail To:**

Boys & Girls Clubs  
of Northeastern Pennsylvania  
609 Ash Street  
Scranton, PA 18510

**BE** \_\_\_\_\_