

A Positive Place for Kids

Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeastern Pennsylvania

ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA



Agency Mission Statement

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

Dear Friends of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeastern Pennsylvania,



Joseph Migliorino, Board President and Tricia DiBiasi Thomas, Executive Director.

On the following pages throughout this Annual Report, you will witness a mere sampling of the exceptional programs and services the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeastern Pennsylvania was able to offer this past year. All of this was made possible through your generosity and the support of foundations, corporations, civic organizations, government agencies and individuals. We are immensely appreciative for the continued commitment of the various funding sources for their confidence in our work.

To say the least, this past fiscal year has been an extremely challenging time for our organization. Agencies across our community and the entire state continue to compete for shrinking dollars. Nevertheless, during this time of financial turmoil, continued cutbacks, and in spite of tighter economic controls, our organization has been able to continue to serve the recreational and educational needs of one thousand plus children throughout Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties. Our Club has continued to maintain its current programming and, in some cases, expand services due to grants from a variety of sources.

Throughout the challenging times, we were also able to implement the BE GREAT Campaign. This campaign is a call to action to kids that says they can and must realize their full potential to become productive, responsible and caring citizens. It is also a wake-up call for adults, to raise awareness about the serious challenges facing our children, and to generate support for our local Boys & Girls Club. As you saw

throughout this report staff and board members wore the BE GREAT t-shirts. We want to inspire our members to "BE" something – whether it's to BE Creative, BE Productive, or BE Helpful - we want our Club members to BE GREAT. We hope you will help us to continue our mission by inspiring our members to "BE".

We look forward to continuing our 111 year-old mission of inspiring and enabling all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens. Whether it is education, health and life skills, the arts, or sports, fitness and recreation, we are dedicated to making a lasting difference in the lives of the children that we serve. With a caring staff, a dedicated Board, and the support of devoted donors, we will continue to accomplish our mission.

In gratitude,
- Joseph P. Migliorino
Board President

- Tricia DiBiasi Thomas
Executive Director

Boys & Girls Clubs of NEPA History

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeastern Pennsylvania has a long history in Scranton. Our Club was founded in 1899 as the Boy's Industrial Association (BIA). The BIA was located in the basement of St. Luke's Episcopal Church. From its inception, the organization was non-sectarian and inter-racial in membership and administration. In 1906, we joined a growing federation of youth organizations which later went on to become the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. In 1926, the organization moved into larger facilities at the corner of Mulberry Street and Adams Avenue and was dedicated with a new corporate title, "Boys' Club of Scranton". The organization continued to grow and thrive in the city. In the early 1970's we opened our doors at our Ash Street facility in Scranton.

In response to social developments and recognizing a strong local need for services offered to girls, the Club opened its doors to girls in a pilot program in 1981. That first year, 225 girls became members, and the program was a huge success. In October of 1985, we changed our name to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Scranton. In 2000, the organization once again expanded services, adding extension sites throughout Luzerne County. In response to this regionalized approach, we changed names again to be more reflective our new service area. We became the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeastern Pennsylvania. In 2006, our organization was honored at the National Centennial celebration of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America for being one of the fifty founding

members in the country.

Since 1899, many things have changed, but many more have remained the same. Our mission has always been the same. We seek to "inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens". Today, some 1,000 boys and girls, ages six to eighteen years old, take advantage of the programs, activities, and services provided by our agency at our full-service central unit in Scranton and our extension sites throughout Luzerne County and in Lackawanna County.

Our Core Promise to Our Members:
To provide a safe, positive, and nurturing place and to have a significant impact on their lives.

Our Core Promise to Our Donors and the Community:
To uphold high ethical standards in all areas, especially in overseeing our finances, reporting data on our membership, being good stewards of the donor dollar and representing ourselves to the public.



Look at all that the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeastern Pennsylvania has to offer:

- Homework Assistance
- Study Skills & Test Preparation
- Educational Games
- Computer Education
- Internet Safety Programs
- Arts & Crafts
- Fine Arts Program
- Health & Life Skills Programs
- Nutrition Education
- Character & Leadership Development Programs
- Youth Recognition Programs
- Youth of the Year Program
- Sports
- Athletic Leagues
- Digital Photography Program
- Fitness Programs
- Recreation Programs
- Games Room Activities
- Specialized Clubs
- Day Camp Programs
- Field Trips



2009/2010 Projections!

There are some very exciting and important programs planned for 2009/2010. The first is the Get Real About Violence Program (GRAV) funded by The Blue Ribbon Foundation of Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania. This program will be offered in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties. In this program we will partner with Lackawanna County Commission on Drug & Alcohol and Wyoming Valley Alcohol and Drug Services, Inc. to teach participants to lead substance-free lifestyles and to foster positive attitudes and behaviors among their classmates and the school community. Based on the Theory of Reasoned Action, the GRAV program encourages students to identify alternative attitudes and norms that would lead to a violent-free outcome. The curriculum will teach students skills to be healthy by showing them how to maintain self-control when tempted by violence, resolve conflicts without violence, and prevent or avoid violent situations using self-control.

The second new program is the Theatre Arts Program funded by the William G. McGowan Foundation. This character-building program that uses theater as a medium is a one-of-a-kind partnership between The District Attorney's Office of Lackawanna County, Scranton Public Theatre (SPT), The Juvenile Justice System and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeastern Pennsylvania. The program will be offered at the Scranton facility only. This joint effort involves creating theatrical works by Club members working with professional artists to create plays that deal with social issues that students will face during their school careers. What makes this program so great is that there literally is something for everyone – whether a member is interested in set design, public relations, acting or scriptwriting – each member should be able to find an interest in this program. As far as we know there is no such program implemented like this in the state of Pennsylvania.

The third program to be offered next year is the Taco Bell Teen Experience sponsored by Taco Bell Foundation for Teens. This program is geared specifically for our teen members. The goal of this program is to decrease high school drop out rates. Our teen members will tour colleges/universities and local places of business to experience life after high school in a real-world experience. Also included in the program is mentoring in our annual Youth of the Year Competition. Hopefully, the more our teens see and experience about life after high school, the more optimistic they will be about graduation.

The last program set for next year is the collaboration with the Jewish Community Center of Wyoming Valley (JCC). At least once a week Club members in Luzerne County will visit the JCC where they will participate in a variety of activities including bowling and swimming, and eat a nutritious dinner. This program gives our members in Luzerne County an opportunity to participate in activities not currently provided to them on a daily basis. ■



Board of Directors

Pictured are front row (l-r) Dave Rudis, Louis Costanzo, Jerry Mahon, Richard Hazzouri and Joe Preate. Second row are (l-r) Erwin Kost, Jr., Joseph Migliorino, John Kramer Jr., and Peter Moylan. Third row are (l-r) Thomas Guzek Jr., Gordon Florey, Philip Rosenstein, and Stephen Hudacek. Back row are (l-r) are Dr. Thomas Artabane and Atty. Robert Sheils III. Missing from photo are Hank Belin IV, Kristin Dempsey, Louis Domiano, Eugene Donahue, Jeffrey Ghergo, John Hennemuth, Atty. Paul Horger, Atty. Jerry Karam, Tom Karam, Jerry Klein, Paul Lantz, Mary Ann LaPorta, Kenneth Levine, Harry C. Morgan Jr. and Wayne Whipple.



Boys & Girls Clubs of NEPA Staff

Staff are front row (l-r) Laura Gentile, director of operations; Debbie Parise, business manager; Tricia DiBiasi Thomas, executive director; Evelyn Evans, registrar; and Julianne Kalasinski, development director. Back row are (l-r) Lloyd Blackwell, athletic and recreation director; John Geary, maintenance supervisor; and Richard Kasavage, central club director.



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.

Youth of the Year Program

Markis Blackwell, a 15-year-old from Mid Valley High School, has been named the 2009 Boys and Girls Clubs of NEPA's Youth of the Year. Markis also represented the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeastern Pennsylvania in Harrisburg for the state Youth of the Year competition. There he placed first in academic excellence.

The Boys & Girls Clubs' Youth of the Year program is designed to develop the qualities of sound character, leadership and willingness to serve in our teenage members. The Youth of the Year program requires participating members to dedicate a lot of time, effort, and work into completing an interview and application process. The members then go before a panel of community judges to answer questions and compete in an interview process. They were judged on family, school, community and Boys & Girls Clubs, as well as personal challenges and obstacles overcome. Judges for this year's event were: Kevin Rogers, representing

the Margaret Briggs Foundation and PNC Bank; Joe Peters, Boys & Girls Club alumnus; and Jerry Klein, board member and Gelb Foundation. This year's program was extremely competitive with a group of outstanding participants.

According to Tricia DiBiasi Thomas, executive director, "The Club is extremely proud of Markis. The Club's mission is to inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. The Youth of the Year program helps us to continue our mission."

Being named Youth of the Year is the highest honor a Boys & Girls Clubs member can receive. The title recognizes outstanding contributions to a member's family, school, community and Boys & Girls Clubs, as well as personal challenges and obstacles overcome.

Markis has been coming to the club since 2002. When asked to describe

what the Club means to him he explains, "The Boys & Girls Clubs actually gets me through my whole life, it's what I live for. The Club has to be my favorite and most joyous place. Without it around, I would be crushed, clueless and feel as if I were missing something. Now that I do have it, I may stay calm, peaceful and have fun all the time."

As the first place winner of the 2009 Youth of the Year competition, Markis was awarded \$1,000 to his choice of higher education and \$100 gift certificate. Markis wants to attend the University of Pennsylvania to become a pediatrician. With the help of the Boys & Girls Clubs of NEPA, Markis now has additional funds to help pay for his education.

We are extremely proud of all of our Youth of the Year candidates. We are also very proud of Markis. Thank you to our guest speaker, participants, donors and judges. ■

Fundraising Updates

Each year the Boys & Girls Clubs of NEPA conducts three major fundraisers for the Club. Since the Club is staff driven and building based, these fundraising events and campaigns are extremely important to keep our doors open for the community children and youth. It isn't a surprise that the struggling economy has decreased revenue from our fundraising efforts, but that hasn't stopped us!

The first fundraising event of the 2008/2009 fiscal year was the 10th Annual Captain & Crew Golf Tournament held at Glen Oak County Club in Clarks Summit, which netted over \$26,000 for the Club. This fundraiser raised 5 percent less than the previous year. This event was sold out and was a great success. A special thank you to the 2008 Corporate Sponsors: Chamberlin & Reinheimer, Comcast, Community Medical Center Medical Staff, E & R Roofing & Construction, Gerrity's Supermarkets, L.R. Costanzo Construction Services Co. Inc., Market Share Development, Inc., and Penn Foster Career School.

The second fundraiser implemented was the 4th Annual ONE Campaign, which netted almost \$60,000. This fundraiser was down 22 percent from the previous year. This campaign provides vital unrestricted funds for the Club to provide the many programs and services that our members so crucially need. This fundraiser is our most important campaign. It is clear that government entities

and corporations simply can't give as much as they have in the past. Similarly, grant applications are becoming more specific in their focus, which do not leave much room for essentials such as paying for the heating and electric bills. This is why we rely so heavily on individual donors. The Annual ONE Campaign focuses on individual donations.

The last major fundraising event of the FY was the 2009 Champion of Youth Reception, which netted almost \$53,000. This fundraiser raised 19 percent less than the 2008 event. This was the 16th year this event has been executed. The Club proudly recognized: Louis Costanzo, Gordon Florey, Dan Meuser, and Attys. Judith and Joseph Price for their contributions to our local community youngsters. 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. "Every year I look

forward to gathering with friends, board members and loyal Club supporters to honor our Champions of Youth. The generosity and commitment to this major annual event is truly inspiring," says Jerry Mahon, event chair. A special thank you to the 2009 sponsors: Gold: L.R. Costanzo Construction Services Co. Inc.; Silver: Gertrude Hawk Chocolates, Dan Meuser and M&T Bank; and Bronze: Keystone Sanitary Landfill, North American Manufacturing Co., Inc., Patsel's Restaurant, Penn Security Bank & Trust, and PNC Bank.

Compared to 2007/2008 our fundraising results have significantly decreased – notably our Annual ONE Campaign. With our expenses increasing and more children and youth being served, and at the same time our fundraising revenues decreasing, we need to look to individuals for assistance. Going forward we are predicting the struggling economic trend to continue. With this in mind, we are relying heavily on our Annual ONE Campaign. We look to community individuals to help keep our doors opened and allow us to offer pertinent programs available for our local community children and youth. Our goal for 2010 is to raise \$90,000 through our 5th Annual ONE Campaign. Regardless of the size of your gift, your participation is crucial. Whether you donate \$10 or \$10,000, you can be the ONE to make a difference in a youngster's life. ■



"We have had another great year at the Boys and Girls Clubs serving the kids in our area.

As Chair of the Building Committee, I continue to search for funding for the ongoing needs of the building. Our facility on Ash Street, while in good shape, needs upgrades to the bathrooms, heating, plumbing and electrical systems. In addition, the exterior parking and sidewalks are showing their age. Our hope is that we can secure funding for these projects and keep the Club as The Positive Place for Kids."

- Louis Costanzo
Building and Property Chair



"The program committee works diligently to ensure Club members are provided with quality

recreational and education programs and activities that fulfill their interests and needs. We also work to collaborate with our community to provide well-rounded experiences for our members."

- Richard Hazzouri,
Program Committee Chair



"It's truly remarkable how many children use our Club services on a daily basis. It's our goal as the marketing

Committee to improve communication within the community about the availability and value of our programs."

- Jerry Mahon
Public Relations and Marketing Chair

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2009

Revenue:

Fees	\$68,253
Investments	\$100,811
Fundraising	\$83,837
Individual Contributions	\$66,304
Corporate Contributions	\$8,750
Memorial Contributions	\$3,760
Government Grants	\$64,496
Foundation Grants	\$107,000
Occupancy	\$54,276
United Way	\$100,322
Miscellaneous	\$33

Total: \$657,842

Expenses:

Employee Related Expenses	\$521,791
Occupants & Related Expenses	\$110,844
Transportation & Related Expenses	\$34,935
Other Program Expenses	\$79,471

Total: \$747,041

Excess of Support & Revenue

over Expense: (\$89,199)

Donor Honor Roll

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeastern Pennsylvania would like to express gratitude to the following individuals and firms for their unselfish and unwavering support. Their substantial financial contributions are greatly appreciated and are used judiciously in serving our Club members.

GOLD - \$5,000 and up

Thomas Karam
L.R. Costanzo Construction Services Co. Inc.
M&T Bank

SILVER - \$1,000 to \$4,999

A. Rifkin Co.
Dr. Thomas Artabane
Henry Belin, IV
Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania
Chamberlin & Reinheimer
CMC Medical Staff
Comcast
Louis Costanzo
Kristin Dempsey
Eugene Donahue
E & R Roofing & Construction
Gordon Florey
Gerrity's Supermarkets
Gertrude Hawk Chocolates
Jeff Ghergo
Richard Hazzouri
Hennemuth & Associates
John Hennemuth
Paul Horger, Esq.
Stephen Hudacek
Dr. Bernard Hyland
Gerard Karam, Esq.
Keystone Sanitary Landfill
Kiwanis Club of Scranton
Jerry Klein
Erwin Kost Jr.
Kost Tire/Auto Service
John Kramer
Paul Lantz
Kenneth Levine
Lombardo & Lipe Electrical Contractors Inc.
Matthew Mackie
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Frank Merkel
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Dan Meuser
Joseph Migliorino
Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs
Peter Moylan
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Schiff's Food Service, Inc.
Robert Sheils, III, Esq.
Snyder & Clemente
The Yelen Group at Smith Barney
Tuxedo Junction
Unico, Scranton Chapter
Wayne & Laurie Whipple

BRONZE - \$500 to \$999

Lucian Birochak
Margaretta Chessler
Devereux Clarke
Community Bank & Trust Co.
Community Medical Center
D.G. Nicholas
Dempsey Uniform & Linen Services
Diamond K
Dougherty, Leventhal & Price, L.L.P.
G. R. Noto Electrical Construction
Carl Greco
Hemmler & Camayd
Eleanore Huddy
International Salt Co.
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Thomas Ostrowski
PDQ Print Center
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Pride Mobility Products Corp.
Scartelli Construction Services, Inc.
Donna Stroud
The Bon-Ton Stores
The Scranton Times-Tribune
Twin Cities Spin Center
Joseph Van R. Clarke Jr.
Wesel Machinery Company

PATRON - \$250 to \$499

Myer Alperin
Janet Arnold
Peter & Laurie Austin
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Thomas Tulaney
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FRIEND - \$1 to \$249

1st Financial Services
A. Scott Enterprises, Inc.
A+ Signs
Action Personnel
Allen's Pharmacy, Inc.
Allied Glass Industries, Inc.
American Janitor & Paper Supply
William Antognoli
Arley Wholesale
Jeffrey Armbruster
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Mike Arnold
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Sheila Baress
Katherine Barrett
Beach Lake Sprinkler Corp.
John Begley
Albert Belardi
Dorrance Belin
Linda Bellucci
Dave Benyon
Richard Bishop
Lloyd Blackwell
Bolus Freight Systems, Inc.
Bonacci Plumbing & Heating
Mary Borthwick



David & Bonnie Bradley
Victoria Bradley
Breig Brothers Inc.
Warren Breig
Kathleen Brown
Burkavage Design Assoc., Inc.
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James Cader
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Carpenters Local #645 Organization
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Catalano Foods
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BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

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We are interested in staying in touch with all of our Club Friends. In this day of "Thinking Green", we would prefer to contact you with future newsletters via e-mail. To insure that we stay in touch,

please go to our website, www.bgcnepa.org and sign up to receive e-newsletters from the Club. Thank you for your interest and support! The official registration and financial information

of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeastern Pennsylvania may be obtained from the Department of State by calling toll-free in Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

We would like to thank the following Municipalities and Foundations for their generous support of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeastern Pennsylvania:

- Bank of America Charitable Foundation
- Charles Holman Foundation
- Citizens Bank Foundation
- City of Scranton
- Comcast Foundation
- Fidelity Charitable Gift Funds
- Lackawanna County Commissioners
- Margaret Briggs Foundation
- Merrill Lynch & Co. Foundation, Inc.
- PNC Foundation
- Price Chopper's Golub Foundation
- Robert Y. Moffat Family Charitable Trust
- Rosenberg Charitable Foundation
- The Luzerne Foundation
- The Prudential Foundation
- Scranton Area Foundation
- Scranton Office of Economic and Community Development
- Tomorrow's Leaders Today/Scranton Area Foundation
- Wachovia Foundation
- Wal-Mart Foundation