

# THE NJ CONNECTION

Summer 2011

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### 2011 NEW JERSEY YOUTH OF THE YEAR

For the second straight year, The Boys & Girls Club in Atlantic City has produced the New Jersey State Youth of the Year. Frankie Watson, an 18-year old member of the Boys & Girls Club of Atlantic City, New Jersey since the age of 11, has been named the New Jersey Youth of the Year by Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA). Frankie was selected from a pool of 19 finalists representing more than 100,000 Club participants statewide. As the New Jersey Youth of the Year, Frankie will receive a \$20,000 scholarship from Walmart, the New Jersey Youth of the Year Event Sponsor.

The Youth of the Year program, which is administered by Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) recognizes outstanding effort and contributions by club members between the ages of 14 and 18, to their family, school, community and Boys & Girls Club, as well as having overcome personal challenges and obstacles.

In July, Frankie will go on to compete against other state winners in BGCA's Northeast Region in New York City. If named regional



Frankie Watson, Boys & Girls Club of Atlantic City, 2011 New Jersey State Youth of the Year

winner, she will be awarded a \$10,000 college scholarship and advance to the national competition in Washington DC. The National Youth of the Year additional \$50,000 college scholarship and will be

installed by President Barack Obama in an oval office ceremony.

Frankie is a senior at Atlantic City High School where she is an honor roll student. She has dedicated herself to her studies and community. She recently participated in the Miniuniversity Program at Richard Stockton College and earned a certificate in recognition of her achievement. Frankie has been a club member for over 7 years and has participated in many activities. She has been actively involved in the Champions of Youth Program. Through the Champion of Youth Frankie has participated in various fundraising efforts, leadership seminars and numerous historical and cultural activities. Her standout leadership as a Boys & Girls Club member is an inspiration to all those whom she encounters, proving once again that if not what one is given but what one gives back that really makes a difference.

See all of the 2011 New Jersey State Youth of the Year Candidates on page 6.

# GOVERNOR SIGNS BILL WHICH BOOSTS SUPPORT OF BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

On April 27th, 2011 legislation sponsored by Assembly members Annette Quijano, Ruben J. Ramos, Jr., and Upendra J. Chivukula to create a new fund to benefit the Boys and Girls Clubs in New Jersey through voluntary contributions on the state's corporate and personal income tax returns was signed into law by Governor Christie.

"The Boys and Girls Clubs provide a safe, educational environment for disadvantaged youth in the otherwise unsupervised hours before and after school," said Quijano (D-Union). "This is a simple way to boost support for their efforts."

The new law (formerly A-3267) establishes the "Boys and Girls Club in New Jersey Fund." Under the law, taxpayers will have the option to contribute to this new fund through a check-off box on New Jersey's corporate and personal income tax returns each year.

"Giving these kids a viable alternative to drug and gang violence is a worthy cause that deserved an easy option to support," said Ramos (D-Hudson).

"Boys and Girls Clubs are a tremendous asset to our communities and it benefits us all to help increase support for their endeavors," said Chivukula (D-Middlesex/Somerset).



#### YOUTH OF THE YEAR AMBASSADORS' TRAINING



Dawn Garlic (Camden BGC) and Gloria Douglas (Earle Naval Youth Center)

On a snowy January 8th, the Trenton Club hosted our third annual Youth-of-the-Year Ambassador's Training. This annual training is geared to train a team of young "Ambassadors", comprised of club members who were previously Youth-of-the-Year winners and finalists, to speak on behalf of the BGCNJ and their own respective clubs, to the media, at club events and various other speaking engagements. These young people represent the "best and brightest" from clubs throughout New Jersey — they are the "caring, responsible citizens" the Boys & Girls Clubs are committed to producing.

The training has two parts – Personal Branding and Media Training. Personal Branding, which was conducted by Kim Lewis-Collins, a member of the BGCNJ Marketing Advisory Board, gives the "Ambassadors" some basic training on the concepts of brand marketing, how to define their own "personal brand" and how all the things they do, wear and say contribute to how others perceive them, and the BGCNJ. Media Training, conducted by Jennifer Kramer a member of the BGCNJ Marketing Advisory Board and Brian Thompson, WNBC Reporter, allowed the "Ambassadors" to hear what a professional reporter had

to say about interview answers, how to answer questions correctly just as they would in a real TV-interview, paying attention to posture and diction, and answering a question while including key messaging on behalf of BGCNI.

Now that they've completed this training, look out for our ambassadors as we to put them to work. Please keep them in mind for any media



opportunities on behalf of the clubs, and for meetings and networking opportunities with potential donors, and other key supporters.





Sal Dupree (far left), Najee Wilson (3rd from left), and Joe Piscopo (back row center) with the cast of Standing Ovation.

# ANOTHER STANDING OVATION

On January 29th, Joe Piscopo joined hundreds of Club members at a special viewing of the film Standing Ovation and a live performance from the cast at the South Orange Performing Arts Theater. This film stars our very own Najee Wilson from the Vineland Boys & Girls Club. The event, Standing Ovation: REWIND marked the release of the movie on DVD. Boys & Girls Clubs receive a portion of the sales from every DVD and CD sold nationwide. To order your copy go to:

www.standingovationmovie.com today!

### PSE&G SPONSORS BOYS & GIRL CLUBS DAY AT THE ROCK

MEMBERS ENJOY SETON HALL MENS BASKETBALL GAME

Thanks to PSE&G, over 500 Boys and Girls Club kids were treated to a special day at the Prudential Center on Sunday, January 30th, 2011. Club kids enjoyed watching Seton Hall play Providence College and also participated in half-time activities. Of note, the basketball team and cheerleaders from the Clifton Club played in an exhibition game. Thanks PSE&G for a great event!







# CLUB MEMBERS CELEBRATE NATIONAL GIRLS & WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY



#### NY LIBERTY HOST BASKETBALL CLINIC AT BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF NEWARK

The New York Liberty hosted a basketball clinic on Thursday, February 3rd at the Central Ward unit of the Newark Boys & Girls Club in recognition of the 25th anniversary of National Girls and Women in Sports Day. Approximately 30 youth participated in the clinic along with the Shabazz High School girls' basketball team. Liberty legend Kym Hampton was on hand to speak about the value of fitness and sports, as well as her



love of the game. Deputy Mayor Margarita Muñiz was in attendance and granted a special proclamation to the NY Liberty in recognition for their involvement in the community. The NY Liberty will play their upcoming season at the Prudential Center in Newark.



L-R: Lisa White, Deputy Mayor Margarita Muñiz, and Liberty legend, Kym Hampton

# SHOP WITH A IOCK



Grant Marshal with Club members from Haledon

To kick off Boys & Girls Clubs Month, ShopRite gave \$100 gift cards to children from several Boys & Girls Clubs throughout New Jersey to shop for healthy foods at the "Shop with a Jock" event on March 1st at the Inserra Supermarket in Lodi. Professional players from all sports came out to shop with club kids. Athletes present and past included, Victor Cruz and Charles Way from the NY Giants, Bruce Harper from the NY Jets, Kym Hampton from the NY Liberty and Grant Marshal from the NI Devils.



Kym Hampton with Club members from Newark

## **LOCAL CLUB PROFILE** — **NORTHWEST NEW JERSEY**

The The Boys & Girls Club of Northwest New Jersey, formerly known as the Boys & Girls Club of Wayne, was founded in 1972. The Club currently serves over 5000 youth in three full service clubhouses located in Wayne, Pequannock and Haledon. The organization has a Board of Directors consisting of twenty-four volunteers, a full time staff of twenty professionals, a part time staff of over 100 college and high school students as well as over 300 volunteers. The organiza-

tion operates on a budget of just over 3.2 million dollars.

The Wayne site operates in a facility of 36,000 square feet and serves 3300 children ages 2.5 – 18. Under the direction



### Boys & Girls Club Day For Kids September 17, 2011

Help us celebrate National Boys & Girls Club Day for Kids. It is a perfect time to discover your local club and its role in the community. This day is set aside each year to celebrate and honor America's children by spending meaningful time with them. It's about celebrating kids, children, grandchildren or any child in need of mentoring.

We invite you to join and support us during Day for Kids! Visit your local club and learn how we are helping young people to BE GREAT – or check out www.dayforkids.org



of Unit Director Dave Font, the club's programming focuses on creating healthy lifestyles, promoting academic success and building good character and citizenship. Specific program areas used to achieve these results include Recreation and Traveling Sports, Afterschool programming, Kindergarten Enrichment, Early Childhood Development and Keystone/Torch clubs. The club completed a 6200 sq. ft. addition in 2009 which serves as its early childhood center with a current enrollment of 55 children ages 2.5-5.

The Pequannock Unit, formerly the Boys & Girls Club of Morris County currently serves over 1300 members ages 3-18. The unit officially became part of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest New Jersey in

October of 2006. Under the direction of Unit Director Danielle Altman, many club programs are operating at or near capacity. According to Chief Volunteer Officer Rudy Favocci, the expansion and renovation of the Pequannock facility is a top priority of the Board as we set our sights to the future.

The Haledon Unit was opened in July 2009 after the organization negotiated a contract for services with the Borough

of Haledon. Mayor Dominick Stampone was instrumental in bringing Club services to the Borough. Operating out of the former Haledon PAL, the Club serves over 500 children from Haledon and Prospect Park under the direction of Kris Kelly. Chief Professional Officer Joseph Lynch had indicated a steady rise in membership each year as the community becomes more aware of our services.

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creating healthy lifestyles,
promoting academic success
and building good character
and citizenship.



# BGC CELEBRATES BIKE SAFETY MONTH

With the support of Kent Bicycle International, Boys & Girls Clubs in NWNJ and Gloucester County were invited to participate in a Bike Rodeo at their local Walmart. The Rodeo not only showed the club members cool tricks that can be done with the bikes but also the importance of safety when riding. The day was filled with give aways including Genesis Bicycles as well as other safety accessories.

### **VOLUNTEER PROFILE: MICHAEL MONTELEONE**



Michael Monteleone

Michael has been employed at Drew & Rogers, Inc. for the past 14 years and is currently the Vice President of ePrint solutions. Michael is generous about sharing his rich experience in online solutions, printing, and marketing by serving on the BCGNJ Marketing Professionals Advisory Board. He is a graduate of Kean University

with a BA in Industrial Design. He has been married for 14 years to his wife Ilana and has two boys, Ryan who nine years old and Matthew who is seven years old. He is an active member in his community coaching the football and baseball teams and thoroughly enjoys working with kids and helping them to succeed in whatever they do.

#### What do you feel makes Boys & Girls Club so important?

The clubs offer two major but basic things that most take for granted... a safe place to enjoy being kid and the opportunity to succeed in life not only monetarily but socially as well.

#### What motivates you to support the clubs on both the local and state level?

I see the talent and the good that these children possess and realize that they need assistance to bring that goodness out of them. In many cases they do not receive the positive support at home for them to realize what they can do. These children are our future as are all children, and their innocence needs to be protected. They need an environment for them to feel safe and receive the nurturing that is required for a child to grow to an exceptional adult.

#### Which volunteer accomplishment are you most proud of?

I am not one to revel in accomplishments in which I volunteer but will say I believe the Fund-A-Dream (see below) is one program that assists many kids in the clubs. Even though only a small handful actually receive the opportunity, I think all of the kids can strive towards being a part of it. This gives them another reason to be better and drive themselves towards their goals.

### PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION

#### AT&T FUNDING HELPS KIDS STAY IN SCHOOL

AT&T has joined in the fight to help lower the drop out rate by awarding the Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey a \$50,000 grant. Additionally, AT&T is sponsoring a "green" science project competition. As part of the initiative, each of four clubs will enter a "green" experiment focused on sustainability, encouraging learning about topics such as vehicle fuel efficiency and solar power. The winner will be announced at an event at the Boys & Girls Club in Gloucester next month. "AT&T is pleased to support the good work of the Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey and its constant, great effort in tackling the dropout problem," said J. Michael Schweder, President of AT&T New Jersey.



AT&T is equally supportive of an initiative to help kids understand a little more about sustainability and sustainable technologies through the Green Science Fair concept in New Jersey. It's the kind of project that demonstrates New Jersey's status as innovation leader." Thanks AT&T!



### CLEARVIEW CINEMAS COLLECTS FOR BGCNJ!

Throughout the month of March all Clearview Cinemas in New Jersey collected over \$8,000 in donations for the Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey. This campaign included collection bins in the lobby area, counter cards with BGCNJ text to give

information and featured us in pre-screen advertising. This is great exposure for all of our clubs in New Jersey and we thank you Craig O'Connor, Marketing Manager at Clearview.

#### **FUND-A-DREAM**

The Fund-A-Dream Project is a unique and inspiring effort that supports the dreams of individual boys and girls who have little or no means to fulfill them.

Through this project, the
Boys & Girls Clubs are able to
cultivate and support a special
talent or interest and, in so
doing, encourage a young
person to aim for heights
previously thought unattainable.
Dreams may include striving
to become the first college
graduate in one's family,
or hoping to attend an elite
training program in dance
or music.

### 2011 NJ YOUTH OF THE YEAR CANDIDATES

Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey would like to congratulate all of the Youth of the Year candidates who were recently honored at the 2011 Youth of the Year Dinner on May 24.



Frankie Watson Boys & Girls Club of Atlantic City



Becky Batista Boys & Girls Club of Camden County



Chelsea Gamarra Boys & Girls Club of Clifton



Janay Taylor Fort Dix Youth Center



Jeffery Reyes Boys & Girls Club of Garfield



Kayla Freeman-Wright Boys & Girls Clubs of Gloucester County



Michael Padilla Boys & Girls Club of Hawthorne



Samantha Mendez Boys & Girls Clubs of Hudson County



Emily Gafanhao The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club of the Ironbound



Egypt Taylor Boys & Girls Clubs of Lodi/Hackensack



Esther Vereen McGuire Airforce Base Youth Center



Ariane Glenn Boys & Girls Club of Monmouth County



Jonathan Colon Boys & Girls Clubs of Newark



Michael Giannini Boys & Girls Club of Northwest New Jersey



Kyra Sanchez Boys & Girls Club of Paterson and Passaic



Larry Jackson Picatinny Arsenal Boys & Girls Club



Tyis Everett Boys & Girls Club of Trenton & Mercer County



Bria Barnes Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County



Alexis Winterborne Boys & Girls Club of Vineland

We would also like to thank our sponsors and all of the generous donations we received to make this year's event a success.

New Jersey Youth of the Year Program – \$50,000 NJ Youth of the Year Scholarship Shopping Spree • Dinner



Finalist Scholarships - \$20,000



**Legislative Lunch Sponsor – \$7,500** 



Mentoring Lunch – \$5,000



Youth Leadership Training/Entertainment Activity – \$5,000



Scholarship Sponsor – \$5,000





Reception Sponsor - \$2,500



\$500 - Stand & Deliver

#### **CLUB NOTABLES**

#### Lodi

- Celebrated its 50th Anniversary with a Gala at the Venetian in Garfield co-hosted by Lodi Club Board Member, Bruce Harper of the New York Jets.
- Raised over \$8,0000 for the club at the Learn-To-Skate benefit held at the Ice House in Hackensack on May 1st, 2011.
- Opened their Counseling & Activities
   Center in Hackensack on May 5th, 2011.

#### **Hudson County**

 Received a \$227k grant to implement the Disproportionate Minority Contact initiative funded by the NJ Department of Law and Public Safety. The program will serve 50 court-referred youth who will participate in a character education program, receive counseling, and attend GED classes.

#### **Carteret – Perth Amboy**

 Hosted the Grand opening of its fourth site at Carteret High School – funded in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Education-21st Century Learning Centers and the City of Carteret on January 20th. In addition, AT&T presented a check for \$10,000 for the Be Great Graduate Program.

#### **Monmouth County**

Welcomed Karen Odom, Deputy
 Chief of Detectives in the Monmouth
 County Prosecutor's Office Investigation
 Division, to the Board of Directors.

#### **Vineland**

 Announced that its past board president and current board member, Tammy Glovsky-Ortega, and Club volunteer, Bette Jean Giercyk, were named Hometown Heroes for all of

- their community service work and affiliation with various organizations, especially the Boys & Girls Club. Both were recognized at a recent awards dinner in Vineland along with over 20 other honorees.
- Dotty Cullen, Advisory Board member, was inducted into the Cumberland County Women's Hall of Fame. She is a longtime champion of the Boys & Girls Club, and of United States veterans.

#### Clifton

 Board Member Jack Morton (Richfield Farms) and 14 volunteers from Unilever Corporation led by LeLand Sember, Director NE Division, spent an afternoon improving the Early Childhood playground.

#### Paterson & Passaic

 Chosen to be the Lead Agency at the Rev. Dr. Frank Napier School bringing traditional club-sponsored afterschool programs to the kids this September.

#### **Garfield**

 Chief Executive Officer Paul Casey was recognized by the Boys & Girls Clubs Professional Association as the 2011 National Professional of the Year at the Boys & Girls Clubs of America National Conference (BGCA) in New Orleans, Louisiana. This award recognizes his significant contributions to the work of the Boys & Girls Club profession, staff and the children served while in his current position.

#### **Trenton & Mercer County**

 Received a \$250,000 contribution for the second year in a row from Novo Nordisk to help at-risk youth join extended day learning programs.

#### NJ CONNECTION

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# CAMPBELLS SOUP FOUNDATION BESTOWES HONOR

#### CAMDEN COUNTY EXECUTIVE RECEIVES LIFETIME AWARD

Milford Liss, Chief Professional Officer of the Boys & Girls Club of Camden received a Lifetime Achievement Award from Campbell Soup Foundation in recognition of his many years of dedication and service to the community. Congratulations Muff – we are proud of you!



822 Clifton Avenue Clifton, NJ 07013

#### **GREAT FUTURES START HERE.**



November 3, 2011 at NJPAC

**FEATURING** 

# THE MIDTOWN MEN

& HONORING NEW JERSEY'S OWN

**JOE PISCOPO** 



