

BGCNJ LAUNCHES ASTHMA AWARENESS PROGRAM



Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey (BGCNJ) is excited to announce the launch of the Breathe Easier with Asthma Management (BEAM) program which is funded by The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey (The

BGCNJ has partnered with the American Lung Association (ALA) to use their *Open Airways for Schools* curriculum for youth with asthma. Additionally, ALA has developed the *Asthma Awareness* program especially for non-asthmatic youth. ALA provided training to Club staff on delivery of these two components and will serve as a resource throughout the program.

Foundation). The Foundation has invested \$500,000 in this pilot initiative, which will raise awareness about asthma and educate Boys & Girls Club members and their parents or caregivers about asthma and how to most effectively manage it. A component of the program will be to work with youth diagnosed with asthma to improve their overall health and quality of life.

In 2009, one in seven NJ children under age 18 had suffered from asthma at some point in life, and one in 11 currently had asthma.

Source: New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services

The BEAM pilot program will target nine counties in New Jersey where there are high rates of childhood asthma. BEAM will serve 2,500 children ages 5-18 at twelve Boys & Girls Clubs from September 2014 through June 2015. During this pilot implementation, the program is being delivered at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Camden County, Clifton, Gloucester, Hudson County, Hawthorne, Mercer County, Salvation Army/Ironbound-Newark, Northwest NJ, Paterson/Passaic County, Perth Amboy, Union County, and Vineland.



The BEAM program kicked off in September with parent information nights that gave parents an overview of the program goals and allow each participating youth to be screened for asthma. Any youth deemed to be at high risk for asthma will receive referrals to doctors in their community.

The program seeks to provide early education to prevent future health issues, reduce the rate of emergency room usage and hospitalization rates. BGCNJ is proud to have been selected to collaborate with The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey on the BEAM Pilot Program to educate and build awareness of this disease in our Club communities and beyond.



The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey

NJ YOUTH OF THE YEAR COMPETES IN NATIONALS



Sparkle Prevard, 2014 New Jersey & Northeastern Regional Youth of the Year

After receiving the NJ State Youth of the Year title in June at the annual Gala of Champions, Sparkle Prevard went on to win the title of Northeast Regional Youth of the Year in August. Sparkle received a \$20,000 college scholarship from BGCNJ as the NJ State Youth of the Year and will receive an additional \$10,000 towards her education for her regional win. On September 16, Sparkle competed in the 2014 National Youth of the Year competition in Washington D.C.

Sparkle joined 5 other young women representing the national Boys & Girls Club movement in Washington for the Youth of the Year competition. Out of 4 million Club kids, these 6 young ladies

were chosen as finalists for National Youth of the Year, based on their commitment to service, their poise & their pursuit of success. Over the course of the weekend leading up to Tuesday's final decision, the finalists participated in media training to prepare them to be representatives of Clubs nationwide, did a photo shoot on Capital Hill, participated in a DC landmark scavenger hunt and met with judges for their interviews.

Sparkle began her journey to Youth of the Year seven years ago when she joined the Boys & Girls Club of Atlantic City during a difficult time in her life. Sparkle found a second family in her fellow Club members and the Club's staff. This gave her the support she needed to excel at school and in her community. Among her many endeavors, she was instrumental in leading the Mayor's Youth Empowerment Council for Atlantic City.



The 6 Regional Youth of the Year Finalists at the 2014 National Youth of the Year Competition in DC



2014 NJ Youth of the Year Finalists with Boys & Girls Club Staff: Dawn Garlic, Cynthia Banks, Dan Dipsey & Evonne Williams; Joetta Clark-Diggs; Kevin Laue & BGCNJ Spokesperson, Joe Piscopo

Sparkle is attending Richard Stockton College of New Jersey and majoring in political science, international relations and education. She will utilize her education to become a teacher and community leader.

Sparkle and her fellow Youth of the Year honorees are shining examples that great futures start at Boys & Girls Clubs. The 2014 New Jersey Youth of the Year program and gala were made possible through support from Cablevision, Garden State Community Bank, New Jersey Education Association, PNC Bank, PSE&G, Shop Rite, NJ Shares, and Wells Fargo.

KEVIN LAUE INSPIRES CLUB YOUTH



Kevin Laue began his motivational tour of New Jersey Clubs in August. Mr. Laue, 24, is the subject of the 2013 Oscar-qualifying documentary film ***Long Shot: The Kevin Laue Story***. A 2012 graduate of Manhattan College, he was the first player with a missing limb to play Division 1 Basketball. As Kevin has visited 14 Clubs across the state, his story of strength and perseverance has made an amazing impact and resonated with many Club members. Kevin is a native Californian and has toured several countries and been a frequent guest on many television and radio programs. Kevin visited Clubs in Clifton, Perth Amboy, Jersey City, Hoboken, Fort Dix Base, Camden, Vineland, Ironbound, Trenton, Newark, Wayne, Hawthorne, Garfield and Lodi.



The response from youth has been overwhelmingly enthusiastic and we hope to schedule a screening of his documentary for Club members. Kevin will continue his tour throughout the Fall. One Club provided a quote that has resonated with all of the Clubs Kevin has visited so far... "Mr. Laue was a hit with our youths. He was engaging, interactive, connective, funny, and a joy to be around. He not only told his story, but he helped our youth understand that they are not alone with any life struggles they might be facing."

A special thanks to Robert Ingato and Joan Standish, BGCNJ Corporate Advisory Board members, for providing the necessary support to enable this inspirational Club tour.

CLUBS ENGAGE YOUTH IN TECHNOLOGY



Early childhood education programs in Wayne, Clifton, Hawthorne and West Orange close the technology gap by engaging youth ages three to five years old in technology as a teaching tool. Youth utilize tablets, smart boards and computers to learn letters, math and gain hand eye coordination. The program is supported by the PNC Foundation.



BGCA LAUNCHES GREAT FUTURES CAMPAIGN

On July 31, Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) launched the Great Futures Campaign, an initiative to mobilize the country in support of kids and empower our nation's youth to achieve success. BGCA is redefining the opportunity equation for kids by elevating the critical role out-of-school time plays in a child's chance to have a great future.

Every day, 15 million kids leave school with no place to go, putting them at risk of being unsupervised, unguided and unsafe. As a leading advocate for youth, Clubs are committed to ensuring that every child has access to a safe place after school and during the summer where they can build the knowledge, skills and behaviors to put them on the path to a great future. What happens during the hours between school and home can have a dramatic impact on kids' futures. By providing access to positive and productive afterschool and summer programs as well as caring adult mentors, Clubs can help reverse many negative trends facing our youth and our country, including graduation rates, obesity and violence. New Jersey Clubs reach over 70,000 youth each year and focus on ensure every member graduates from high school with a plan for the future, demonstrates good character, citizenship and leads a healthy lifestyle. Clubs build the leaders of tomorrow.

Help us expand the reach of Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey to serve every child in need.



In a Harris Survey,
**90% of Club
alumni** reported they
earned a high school
diploma or equivalent.

90%
OF CLUB ALUMNI
GRADUATED

**Text BeGreatNJ to 20222
to make a \$10 donation.***

STUDENT LEADERS BRING THEIR SKILLS TO LOCAL CLUBS



Student Leaders Romina Generali, Austin Verissimo, Sarah Dietz and Lorely Solano at the Bank of America Student Leadership Summit in Washington D. C.

Bank of America continued its partnership with BGCNJ to serve as the host organization for their Student Leaders Program, which is an integral piece of their Neighborhood Excellence Initiative, and stems from their commitment to support community leaders of today and tomorrow.

This year's five winners were partnered with local Clubs in Elizabeth, Newark, Jersey City and Vineland where they were exposed to all facets of overseeing a non-profit organization.

In addition to their work at the club each leader attended a week-long Student Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C. During the Summit, they were exposed to all aspects of civic, social and business leadership. The goal was to provide the students with the tools and skills they will use throughout their life to create positive community change. Student Leader, Romina Generali stated, "This has been an amazing experience for me and allowed me to learn so much about how non-profits work."



CLUB NOTABLES

Garfield

Welcomed Tom Demko as their new CEO. Mr. Demko has 25 years of experience in non-profit management and grew up in the Garfield as a Club member.

Hudson County

Opens their new state of the art building in Jersey City with modern science and technology labs, a music recording studio, versatile classroom spaces, a teaching kitchen and gym. The new Clubhouse is especially designed to prepare youth to succeed in the 21st Century economy.



Newark

Packed up 17 cases of fruit and distributed them amongst their member families. The effort was part of *Healthy Cities*, a program funded by Morgan Stanley that connects local nonprofits, schools and hospitals to deliver resources that promote wellness, good nutrition and safe play to Newark's children.



Newark-Ironbound

Celebrate their five soccer teams: Fever, Tigers, Navigators, Premier Strikers, and Elite; that made it to the 2014 Super Y League North American Finals.

Mercer County

Partnered with the ZAC Foundation to bring the Foundation's award-winning ZAC Camp to more than 100 local five to nine-year-olds. The ZAC Camp teaches youth lifesaving water-safety skills to continue the remarkable legacy of 6-year-old Zachary Archer Cohn who drowned in a drain entrapment in 2007.

Monmouth County

Introduced Robo Tech, a technology program which introduces members to the field of robotics and its ancillary components of electronics, mechanics, and software. Youth worked in small groups and built working helicopters, ferris wheels, and robots. The program was supported by the Gannett Foundation.

NJ CONNECTION

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Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey
822 Clifton Avenue, Clifton, NJ 07013
973-773-0966 ext. 151

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shall@bgcnj.org

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