

## CLUB YOUTH BUILD ROBOTS WITH SUPPORT FROM WALMART

Ten New Jersey Boys & Girls Clubs dove into the WaterBotics® program this summer. Through a \$82,461 grant from Walmart and a partnership with Stevens Institute of Technology's Center for Innovation in Engineering & Science Education (CIESE), this exciting STEM-based program is being implemented at Boys & Girls Clubs across New Jersey in Atlantic City; Camden; Clifton; Gloucester; Lodi/Hackensack; Monmouth; Newark; Northwest New Jersey; Paterson/Passaic; and Perth Amboy. WaterBotics is an innovative research-based curriculum for teams of middle and high school students, which involves the design, building, programming, testing and redesigning of underwater robots.



*Youth test their water robots at Paterson/Passaic Club.*



*Boys & Girls Club of Clifton staff instruct youth on the final step of their Waterbotics mission.*

The WaterBotics curriculum provides our members with an opportunity to hone their problem solving and teamwork skills while learning about physical science and engineering concepts. The team-based missions engage youth in exciting, hands-on, innovative and novel technologies that improve their knowledge and interest in pursuing science and engineering careers. "More than ever, success in life, work, and citizenship demands deep and substantial

scientific and engineering literacy," said Arthur Camins, CIESE director at Stevens Institute of Technology. "Support from Walmart for the WaterBotics program will help make that possible for an ever more diverse group of students."

*"WaterBotics will increase the number of our young people who will develop an interest in STEM education and careers. It will provide all the youngsters involved with the chance to enhance their ability to overcome challenges in a group setting."*

*Douglas Eagles, Executive Director  
Boys & Girls Clubs of Monmouth County.*

"Walmart is proud to join with New Jersey Boys & Girls Clubs and Stevens Institute of Technology in bringing the WaterBotics curriculum to hundreds of young people across the state," said Jennifer Hoehn, Walmart Director of Public Affairs and Government Relations in New Jersey. "We always seek the most impactful ways of contributing to the communities where we conduct business, and providing this strong introduction to the fields of research, robotics, and engineering has tremendous value."

## WELCOME FROM, SUSAN HASPEL, STATE DIRECTOR



The summer is flying by as are my first two months as State Director. I would like to thank everyone for the incredibly warm welcome. I am happy to report that it has been a very exciting time, for me, getting to know the organization, and the many inspiring people I've had to chance to meet so far.

It is a privilege and an honor to have the opportunity to serve the youth of New Jersey in this capacity, and to support a premier organization whose mission is to empower youth to achieve success. I'm looking forward to strengthening and building upon the impressive work already underway, and am delighted to be able to focus my efforts on helping young people to build great futures in my home state.

I will be working closely with all of our clubs and corporate partners to engage our communities in the BGCNJ movement. It is critically important that we continue to strengthen our brand, create awareness, and provide the very best programs for NJ's kids. We are grateful to our current and new partners who have supported club programming as well as sponsorships for BGCNJ events including the Youth of the Year. Our next big event is the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Concert for Kids on Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at NJPAC featuring Tony Bennett with special guest Antonia Bennett. This is sure to be an incredible evening and hope to see you there.

I am committed, along with the BGCNJ team, to strengthen and grow our efforts to enable all youth in NJ, especially those who need us most, to achieve their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible citizens.

## CLUBS ENGAGE YOUTH IN ASTHMA AWARENESS



BGCNJ has just completed a 14-month Breathe Easier with Asthma Management (BEAM) pilot program, thanks to a \$500,000 grant from Horizon Foundation for New Jersey. BGCNJ was able to raise awareness and educate more than 2,300 Boys & Girls Club members and their families about asthma and how to most effectively manage it. The BEAM pilot program was implemented in the nine counties in New Jersey that have the highest rates of childhood asthma and included Boys & Girls Clubs of Camden, Clifton, Gloucester, Hudson, Hawthorne, Mercer, Salvation Army/Ironbound-Newark, Northwest NJ, Paterson/Passaic, Perth Amboy, Union, and Vineland.

Through the use of the American Lung Association's (ALA) *Open Airways for School*® curriculum and *Asthma Awareness* presentations, BGCNJ ensured our members gained an understanding of asthma, and for those who have asthma, provided an increased understanding of how to better manage their asthma. The BEAM Pilot Program had an overall positive impact in the communities we serve. Families learned the importance of seeing a doctor and were provided with referral information to county specific Federally Qualified Health Care facilities.

In recognition of Asthma Awareness month (May 2015), four media launches were held at local ballparks. These events brought together dignitaries from Horizon, BGCNJ representatives, NJ legislators, ALA, our Clubs' BEAM trainers and of course, our members and their families for a fun night which highlighted the importance of this program in the communities that we serve.

Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey is delighted to announce that we have received a renewal of the Breathe Easier with Asthma Management Program in the amount of \$600,000 from The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey to implement the BEAM Program from September 2015 through November 2016 at sites throughout New Jersey. BGCNJ looks forward to the expansion of this signature program and to helping more youth throughout the State.

## PARTNERSHIP PROFILE: WAKEFERN FOOD CORP.



Anne Marie Burke presenting Darnell Butler from Camden with his award at the 2015 Youth of the Year Gala.

Wakefern has been a long-standing enthusiastic supporter of the Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey. Over the course of the last 6 years, they have invested \$85,000 through sponsorships of our Youth of the Year scholarship competition program and our annual fundraising event, Concert for Kids. Wakefern has not only invested their financial resources but also shared the time and talents of their executives. Ann Marie Burke, Vice President of Human Resources and Corporate Planning, has been on our Corporate Advisory Board for the last 4 years and has served on the panel of judges for the Youth of the Year. This past year, Ann Marie has graciously allowed BGCNJ to host our quarterly Board meetings at their headquarters in Edison, NJ.

Wakefern is the nation's largest retailer-owned cooperative and is comprised of 50 member companies who own and operate retail supermarkets under the ShopRite, Price Rite and The Fresh Grocer banners. With a mission of *Helping small business succeed in a big business world*, Wakefern is committed to providing entrepreneurs and independent retailers with the necessary tools to succeed in a competitive market. It comes as no surprise that Wakefern's core values are *integrity*,

*innovation* and *teamwork*. These values shine through in the initiatives and opportunities they have provided at Boys & Girls Clubs throughout the New Jersey network.

Wakefern created a series of cooking workshops, which spanned almost 2 years, for kids at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Camden County. They provided the Chef Instructor and the food, as well as hosting a graduation ceremony. At the Boys & Girls Clubs of Lodi/Hackensack, Wakefern supported a *Take a Player Shopping* event at the Lodi Shop Rite. Each child was given a \$50 gift card and shopped with a famous sports figure.

Recently, Wakefern teamed up with Dasani and the Boys & Girls Club of Newark for an afternoon filled with healthy food and exercise. Neil Greenstein, joined Former WNBA New York Liberty player and founder of Fight 2B Fit, Sue Wicks, who led a basketball clinic for over 50 young athletes. Mr. Greenstein and Ms. Wicks were joined by her former team captain and 1988 Olympic Gold Medalist, Teresa Weatherspoon. At the conclusion of the event, ShopRite of Newark and Dasani presented the Boys and Girls Club of Newark with a donation of \$5,000. The donation will be used to advance the Club's Triple Play Program, a collaborative health and wellness initiative with the US Department of Health and Human Services. In addition to these wonderful initiatives, Wakefern has supported countless requests for fruit and snacks for various Clubs' events and programs.

Wakefern just signed on to be a Great Futures Sponsor (\$12,500) for our 2015 Concert for Kids in November. Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey is honored to highlight Wakefern Food Corp in our Partnership Profile for their continued incredible support of youth development opportunities throughout all our Clubs in New Jersey.





# YOUTH OF THE YEAR GALA CELEBRATES YOUTH LEADERS



*2015 NJ State Youth of the Year Winner, Jennifer Negron with staff and board members from Boys & Girls Clubs of Vineland.*

With 250 individuals in attendance, the 2015 New Jersey Youth of the Year program culminated with the Youth of the Year Gala on June 9, 2015 at Stockton University. The event's emcee was Amy Freeze, Meteorologist for WABC-TV. Guests were welcomed by Stockton University's Acting President, Dr. Harvey Kesselman. The high point of the evening was the announcements of Jennifer Negron, a member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Vineland, as the 2015 New Jersey Youth of the Year and Jack Rickey, from Picatinny Teen Center as the NJ Military Youth of the Year.

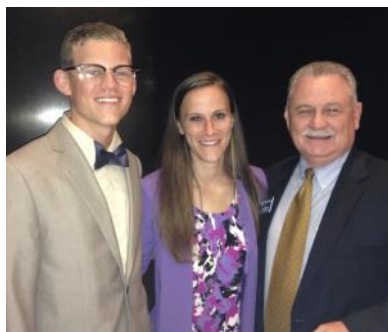
The New Jersey State Youth of the Year Program is a unique opportunity to celebrate and recognize the achievements of nineteen of New Jersey's finest young leaders. Youth of the Year finalists embody the values of leadership, service, academic excellence and healthy lifestyles; they exemplify the critical impact of Boys & Girls Clubs on the lives of young people. Becoming a Youth of the Year, is the highest honor a club member can receive.

The NJ Youth of the Year program is a six month journey beginning in January with a Future Leaders Summit where youth throughout the state attend a full day of leadership training that prepares them for the competition. Throughout the year, youth work with mentors and coaches to build on their strengths, develop speeches, write essays and practice public speaking skills. The final step of the Youth of the Year experience is a full day of interviews with a panel of five judges. The judging panel included Jo Standish, Chair of the BGCNJ Corporate Advisory Board; Nick Miceli, TD Bank; Justin Edelman, Barnabas Health; Calvin Souder, Patton Boggs LLP; and John Schreiber, NJPAC.

Thanks to the support of our New Jersey Sponsors, Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey distributed over \$50,000 in scholarships to our nineteen finalists with the NJ State Youth of the Year receiving a \$10,000 scholarship. The Youth of the Year program was generously sponsored in New Jersey by NJEA, Novartis, Horizon Foundation for NJ, Jersey Mike's Franchise Systems, Wakefern Food Corporation, PNC Financial Services, Garden State Community Bank, Comcast, Cablevision, Sobel Family Foundation, NY Giants and TD Bank. Additionally, both the NJ State winner and NJ Military winners received \$5,000 scholarships from Boys & Girls Clubs of America. The National Youth of the Year program is supported by presenting sponsor Disney, as well as Toyota, University of Phoenix and Taco Bell Foundation for Teens.



*2015 Youth of the Year Finalist with Gala Emcee, Amy Freeze.*



*2015 NJ Military Youth of the Year, Jack Rickey, Melanie Lewis of Picatinny Base & Lucky Harris, BGCA.*



*Acting Stockton University President, Harvey Kesselman, with YOY Finalist Deon Davis.*

# CLUB PROFILE: BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF PATERSON & PASSAIC



*Congressman Bill Pascrell (D) announces expanded STEM Program at Boys & Girls Clubs of Paterson & Passaic.*

The Boys & Girls Club of Paterson and Passaic recognized the educational opportunity that STEM programming represents to our Club Kids early last year. In 2014, we launched our DIY STEM Program which engaged 60 youth in an 8-week program that used hands-on lessons to illustrate how STEM is part of their everyday lives. In the following year, we received \$45,000 in funding from PSEG, Express Scripts and Cognizant to bring the DIY module to an additional 120 students and 7 additional sites.

Building on this momentum, we received a BGCA grant for First Lego League and a Walmart grant in conjunction with BGCNJ for WaterBotics – both of which were introduced to our Club Kids Summer 2015. As we head into the 2015-2016 school year, our STEM Program will include several modules that will provide a holistic approach to programming across age groups. Specifically, we will be implementing the DIY 2.0 program through BGCA in most of our 12 sites.

The partnerships we've formed with academia will result in several unique opportunities for our youth as well. Rutgers University and 4H will begin a 5 year grant that will engage 20 high school freshmen each year not only with direct STEM lessons but also with a Teen Leadership Program where each cohort will teach STEM lessons to the younger Club kids. This program will include use of a 3D Printer and other equipment that will

familiarize the participants with technology they will encounter on their education and career paths. Our partners at Montclair University will continue their involvement at our club with fun, educational lessons involving coding and technology-based creativity.

As the program has grown, so has the need for managing all of the different aspects. To that end, we have recently received funding for a Full-Time STEM Director who will design, implement and manage the program throughout our sites during the school year and summer programming. To support the overall program and provide an appropriate workspace for our club modules, we recently completed construction of the new STEM Maker Lab at the Paterson Clubhouse with a grant from the City of Passaic.

On August 5, our partners at Cognizant sponsored a trip to Edison's Workshop followed by a Mini Maker Day where students worked alongside adults to build speakers out of paper and utilized freeware to build a program. Our students have also been invited to participate in the Maker Faire in NYC on September 26 where they will demonstrate a STEM lesson to other children.

We continue to build partnerships with corporations, universities and experts in the disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math to ensure that our programs and resources are up-to-date and that our students have enrichment opportunities to build a GREAT FUTURE.





## CLUB NOTABLES

### Lodi/Hackensack

On April 2, the Club unveiled a new Teen Center. Funding was made possible through the NFL's Snowflake Foundation and PSEG Charitable Foundation. Assemblywoman Joan Voss and Mayor Bruce Masopust helped cut the ribbon at the opening ceremony.

### Gloucester

On June 23 a ribbon cutting ceremony opened the new student computer lab. Renovated by Northstar NJ, the lab includes 16 new computers with updated software, printer and headsets, new desks, chairs and fresh paint. The lab will serve 125 members on a daily basis.

### Mercer County

In September, the Club will open a new community center in for Mercer County youth and families in Lawrence. The 35,000 sq. ft. facility features a gymnasium; teen and technology centers; a professional teaching kitchen and café; karate, dance and art studios; career and STEM centers; an arcade; and classroom space.

### Monmouth County

Enhanced their water safety programming this summer by engaging youth in a two-week Summertime Surf Camp at the Asbury Park beaches which fostered a new level of comfort with the water. Youth received daily, hands-on instruction where they learned the fundamentals of the sport of surfing.

### Perth Amboy

In August youth visited the AT&T Global Network Operations Center which was a culmination of the summer long Aspire Mentoring Program, where AT&T staff volunteered nearly 100 hours mentoring club teens.

**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**  
IN NEW JERSEY

13<sup>th</sup> Annual  
*Concert for Kids*

Thursday, November 12, 2015  
New Jersey Performing Arts Center

*Tony Bennett*  
and *Antonia Bennett*

VIP Reception 6:00PM Chase Room	Performance 8:00PM Prudential Hall
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For Sponsorship, Ticket & Event information:  
Contact: Terry Wostbrock Email: twostbrock@bgcnj.org  
Phone: 973.773.0966 Ext. 151

*Event Chairman*  
**Nick Miceli**  
Market President, TD Bank

*Corporate Honoree*  
**Robert A. Marino**  
Chairman & CEO of Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey,  
Chairman of The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey Board of Directors

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## NJ CONNECTION

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