



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF THE LOWER NAUGATUCK VALLEY

2015 Annual Report

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF AMERICA

YOUTH
OF THE
YEAR

LEAD • SUCCEED

Sponsored by



Leadership Team

As this year draws to a close, we'd like to thank you for your continued support and provide you with a greater understanding of the ways your investment has benefitted the more than 2,300 young people who attend our programs. It's been a year of many achievements, and we credit these many successes to our generous partners and supporters who help our children grow healthier, learn more, and become better prepared to realize their dreams.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to each and every one of you who share in our passion and mission.

For the first time in our Club's history, one of our youth achieved the coveted title Connecticut Youth of the Year. She then went on to be named Northeast Region Youth of the Year. Brooke is an incredibly inspiring young woman whose determination to succeed even when faced with tremendous adversity is admirable. She is a living testament to the power of the Club experience. You can read more about Brooke's journey on page 3-4.

Unwavering commitment to our members is what compels our staff to go above and beyond the scope of their duties each and every day. Jennifer DeLeon, Ron Sells, and Jesse Patrick—our three Unit Directors—have the kids' best interests at heart with every decision they make. But this work we do can't be done alone. To our great fortune we

are guided by a remarkably dedicated and talented Board of Directors. They take time each month—and sometimes

several times a month—to come to our Club, review our operations, and offer their expertise to help us operate at the highest level of efficiency. We are also fortunate to have volunteers who choose to share their passion with our members, expanding the scope of their after school experiences.

We are grateful for the generosity of our donors who partner with our Club to invest in the future of our young people—the future of our community and our world. Thank you for giving our members the opportunity to succeed and for providing us the resources we need to increase our reach and impact. On behalf of our staff and members, we thank you for all you do to make a difference in the lives of kids.

We look forward to working together in 2016, when we will commemorate our 60th year of service to the youth of the Valley.



Joseph A. Pagliaro, Jr.



Shaye A. Roscoe

Handwritten signatures of Joseph A. Pagliaro, Jr. and Shaye A. Roscoe in black ink.

Joseph A. Pagliaro, Jr.
Board President

Shaye A. Roscoe
Executive Director



Brooke's entourage

Members of our Board and staff joined Brooke on her journey as she participated in the Connecticut, Northeast Region, and national Youth of the Year competitions. Pictured are (L-R) Donald W. Smith, Jr., P.E., incoming Board President and his wife Lisa; current Board President Joseph A. Pagliaro, Jr.; Executive Director Shaye Roscoe; Brooke; Jennifer DeLeon, MSW, Brooke's mentor and advisor; Susan DeLeon, Board Chair; Jim Queen, Director of Operations; and Rich Carroll, Executive Committee member.

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Community Member

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Program

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Retired School Principal

Louis Dagostine III

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Community Member

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Manger Die Casting

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Miller Investments

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Shelton Economic Devel-
opment Corporation

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Serra & DelVecchio

Insurance Group

Lisa Serra

Serra & DelVecchio

Insurance Group

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Dominick Thomas*

Cohen and Thomas

Jimmy Tickey

Community Member

Beverly Tidmarsh

Community Member

Linda Welch

Retired School Principal

Jonathan Wetmore

The Law Offices of
Jonathan A. Wetmore

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LeRoy Glover

Calvin K. Price*

Kenneth E. Schaible*

Donald Smith

Charles Sullivan*

Leo Vine*

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Ron P. Sells, Jr. Smilow Unit Director

Jesse Patrick Seymour Unit Director

Victoria Queen Smilow Program Director

Marie Ambrosini Finance & HR

Administrator

Ann Marie Wheeler Office Manager

* Past President

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Achille Apicella

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Christopher Carey

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David Condon

John Coughlin

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John Zaprzalka

Laura Zaprzalka

Thomas Zaprzalka

Turning Tears into Triumph

At its most basic, the Boys & Girls Club opens its doors to kids every day after school, providing them a fun and safe environment to do their homework, play, and experience new things. At its best, the Boys & Girls Club lifts kids up to be more than they could ever have dreamed. Brooke has experienced the Boys & Girls Club at its best, and her vision is to change the lives of others, the way the Club changed hers.

Joining our Boys & Girls Club when she was only six, Brooke knew right away that she had found a sanctuary from her troubled home life. But after only one year with us, she had to leave—her unstable mother took Brooke and her siblings out of the state, moving from place to place, forcing the children to face evictions, fire, and constant uncertainty for two years. When they finally returned to Connecticut, her mother was compelled to release custody of Brooke and her siblings to their father.

Though they now had a permanent home, their father suffered from multiple sclerosis, had virtually no experience in child rearing, and essentially left the kids to care for themselves. It hit Brooke's older sister the hardest; she turned to drugs and alcohol to cope. Brooke was in third grade. By the time Brooke was in eighth grade, her friends had begun experimenting with drugs and alcohol as well, and she faced the difficult decision of falling into the same destructive habits or standing on her own.

She chose to immerse herself in the Boys & Girls Club. Torch Club and Keystone—youth leadership groups with a strong focus on community service—appealed to her. So did SMART Moves, a program designed to teach kids how to say no to drugs and alcohol through role playing, practicing refusal skills, and analyzing outside influences.

Brooke's sister started attending Narcotics Anonymous meetings but, as anyone who has seen addiction first hand knows, getting clean is much easier said than done. Brooke decided it was time for her to step in and help her sister on the path to recovery. Her typical schedule as an eighth grader started with school, then going to practice for volleyball, softball, or track. She was an exceptional athlete who inspired not only her teammates but her coaches as well. After practice she would come



Youth of the Year Judging at the Lavietes Clubhouse. Standing: Rosalie Averil, Holly Cimino, Rob Lesko, Jimmy Tickey, Jonathan Wetmore. Seated: LNV finalists Brooke and Madeline Gloade

2015 Northeast Region Youth of the Year

to the Club, taking part in everything from calligraphy to Immersion Science, in addition to SMART Moves and Torch Club. Then she would attend NA meetings with her sister.

It took a lot of courage to attend those meetings. She wanted to be there, but it was difficult to hear about the horror of an addict's life. It drove home exactly how harmful drugs really were—not only to the user, but to everyone around them. She realized that more kids needed to know this and that the Club and its programs could be a powerful resource for them.

By freshman year her sister was on her way to recovery, and Brooke was hitting her stride. She credits both sports and the Boys & Girls Club with teaching her that her grades really mattered. In order to play volleyball or softball or attend Torch Club or Keystone conferences, she had to maintain a certain grade point average. She became an honor student and continued that trend through most of high school, being inducted into the National Honor Society in her senior year.

When she was old enough Brooke joined our staff as a counselor. One of her favorite jobs was teaching Happy Hoopers, a hula hooping class. Each week she taught 15 kids, getting them interested and invested in their health and fitness through the fun of hooping.

This February Brooke entered and won our Club's Youth of the Year competition. Youth of the Year is the highest honor a Boys & Girls Club can bestow upon a member, and it is awarded to one exemplary young person in recognition of leadership, service, academic excellence, and dedication to living a healthy lifestyle. In May she also won the Connecticut award, facing off against 15 other Clubs. In August Brooke took home the coveted Northeast Region Youth of the

Year title, and in September she participated in the national competition.

Though she didn't win top honors in DC, the journey has profoundly affected her. Time and time again she took the stage, sharing her family's pain to teach others that it is possible to turn tears into triumph and challenges into success stories. She faced struggles she thought would tear her down, but she found great courage and resilience. She has learned that within every tragedy is a hidden blessing. Brooke's blessing is the desire to change the lives of as many teens as she can, letting them know that even with seemingly impossible circumstances, you can still achieve anything if you put your mind to it. She wants them to know that drug and alcohol use isn't the answer, and that there is a place you can go to escape those influences and achieve your dreams.

Brooke is now a freshman at Southern Connecticut State University where she is majoring in business. She's putting herself through school and works hard for everything she has, which makes her appreciate it that much more. Her journey to higher education has gotten a boost from the Youth of the Year competition, not only in scholarship funds, but in personal growth and connections made with local and national reporters, celebrities, CEOs, and congressmen. She'll be travelling back to DC soon to meet President Obama, and then to Texas for the National Keystone Conference. After that, who knows?

Wherever she goes Brooke's strong work ethic, integrity, and compassion will help her make her mark, as she has at her Boys & Girls Club.

Left to Right: Meeting Governor Malloy at the state capitol • Representative Himes • Senators Murphy and Blumenthal • Brooke's mentor and advisor, Lavietes Unit Director Jennifer DeLeon



Programs

Everything we do at the Boys & Girls Club is centered around helping our members become well-rounded children and young adults. By focusing on academics, health and fitness, and leadership and service, the children and youth we serve will be better prepared to graduate high school and thrive as adults, contributing to their communities and to their nation. The Boys & Girls Clubs of America's Formula for Impact is a roadmap to help us achieve these goals.

GREAT FUTURES START HERE FORMULA FOR IMPACT

YOUNG PEOPLE
WHO NEED US MOST

+

OUTCOME-DRIVEN
CLUB EXPERIENCE

=

PRIORITY OUTCOMES



FIVE KEY ELEMENTS
FOR POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

HIGH-YIELD
ACTIVITIES

TARGETED
PROGRAMS

REGULAR
ATTENDANCE



Graduate from high school ready for college, trade school, military or employment



Be an engaged citizen involved in the community, register to vote and model strong character



Adopt a healthy diet, practice healthy lifestyle choices and make a lifelong commitment to fitness

Academic Success

Boys & Girls Club programming spans the arts, homework assistance, college preparation, and science to help our members achieve success.

Money Matters: Make It Count promotes financial responsibility and independence among Club members ages 13 to 18. Participants learn how to manage a checking account, create a budget, save and invest, start small businesses, and pay for college.

Junior Achievement is dedicated to giving young people the knowledge and skills they need to own their economic success, plan for their future, and make smart academic and economic choices. The program provides relevant, hands-on experiences that give members knowledge and skills in financial literacy, work readiness, and entrepreneurship.

Immersion Science is a fun and powerful marine science education program for kids in grades 5-8. The program was founded by famed oceanographer Dr. Robert Ballard, the discoverer of the Titanic. What makes the program so successful is its joint emphasis on scientific knowledge coupled with the fun and excitement of exploration.

Our Arts programs include crocheting, sewing, drama,

music, Dance for Your Dreams, and arts and crafts.

Programs are open to members as young as 7 and through high school. Our crocheting projects have been sent overseas to our soldiers and sewing projects have been delivered to the Smilow Cancer Center for pediatric patients. Drama productions have included Annie Jr. and Willie Wonka Jr.

Club Tech is Boys & Girls Clubs of America's digital literacy program aimed at making technology accessible, intriguing, and fun.

Kids learn how to use basic business software, be safe online, and learn advanced hardware and networking skills.

Power Hour: Making Minutes Count provides an engaging homework help program that encourages Club members at every age to become self-directed learners. The program is designed to raise the academic proficiency of Club members ages 6-12.



Money
Matters
10



Junior
Achievement
14



Immersion
Science
173



The
Arts
306



Club Tech,
Computers
406



Power Hour
647



Healthy Lifestyles

We understand the importance of a healthy lifestyle and that it means more than just eating right. Keeping fit and forming positive relationships also play a part. Our programs reflect and meet this goal.

Resistance Skills include Be Smart, Don't Start; Healthy Habits; SMART Kids, and SMART Moves. These programs focus on health and nutrition and resistance training for drug and alcohol buse and cigarette smoking. Mentors learn through hands-on activities and discussion.

Triple Play: A Game Plan for Mind, Body, and Soul is a dynamic wellness program that demonstrates how eating right, keeping fit, and forming positive relationships add up to a healthy lifestyle. The aim is to improve Club members' knowledge of healthy habits, increase the number of hours per day they participate in physical activities, and strengthen their ability to interact positively with others and engage in positive relationships.

Sports include basketball, indoor soccer, and KidSafe Self Defense & Karate. Our basketball leagues are open to boys and girls as young as third grade

through high school. Indoor Soccer is open to kids ages six through high school. KidSafe is designed to enhance self esteem, self discipline, and safety awareness of children ages 5-15.

TGIF is a social evening for middle school aged members on Fridays. Members enjoy sports tournaments, dance parties, holiday parties, computer access, games room tournaments, and karaoke.

Our Games Room pool tables, foosball, ping pong, and bumper pool have a waiting line every day. Board games, card games, puzzles, and activities like gimp keep members loosely engaged while they spend time with their friends.



Program Sponsors

\$75,000+
Connecticut Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs
\$30,000+
Sea Research Foundation
\$20,000+
Boys & Girls Clubs of America
\$15,000+
Toyota Financial Services
\$10,000+
Department of Justice

Friends of Jimmy Miller Inc.
\$5,000+
500' on Main/Charter Arms
99 Restaurant
Bruce N. Griffing Trust
\$1,000+
Ansonia Board of Education
Unilever
Valley United Way
\$500+

Bricks & Barley
In Kind
Ansonia Fire Department
Ansonia Food Service
Ben Perry
BGCLNV Alumni Association
Clayton Holdings
Comcast
Connecticut Speed School
Echo Hose Hook & Ladder Co. 1

FoodCorps
Parent Child Resource Center
Prudential
Richemont North America
Seymour Board of Education
Shelton Board of Education
Sikorsky Credit Union
Spoonier House
Town of Oxford

Character & Citizenship

Helping youth become responsible, caring citizens and acquire skills for participating in the democratic process are the main thrust of the Boys & Girls Club's character and citizenship programs.

Torch Club is a group leadership development program targeted to youth ages 11 to 13. Members elect officials and plan and implement activities and community service projects. This program focuses on helping youth become responsible, caring citizens, and acquire skills for participating in the democratic process. It also helps youth develop leadership skills and provide opportunities for planning, decision-making, contributing to Club and community, and celebrating our national heritage.

Keystone Club is a group leadership devel-

opment club for young people ages 14 to 18. Keystoneers elect officials, choose their own activities, and plan and implement community service projects. A national charter entitles Keystone Cub to participate in regional and national Keystone conferences.

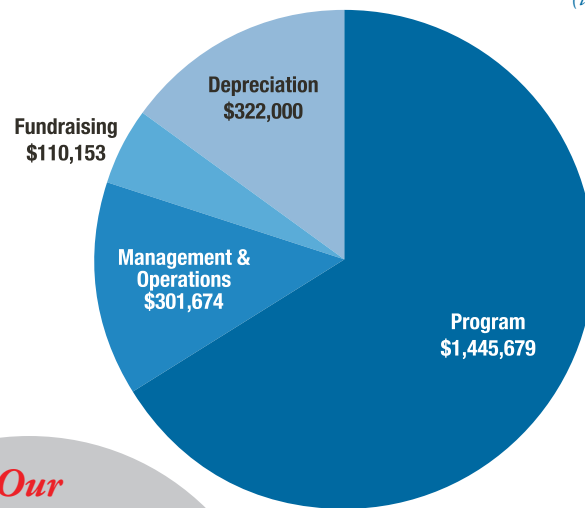
SMART Leaders is a booster program that follows SMART Moves, reinforces the skills and knowledge already learned. The program includes role-playing and videotapes identifying different peer pressures.



(unaudited)

Category	Amount
Program	\$891,724
Grants	\$351,985
Contributions & Miscellaneous	\$355,847
Investments	\$71,984
Cities Support	\$143,500
United Way	\$94,416

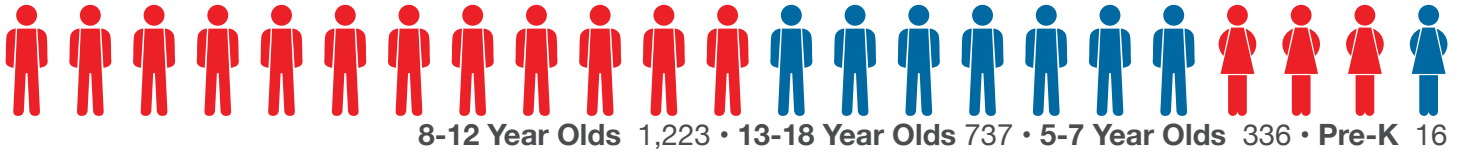
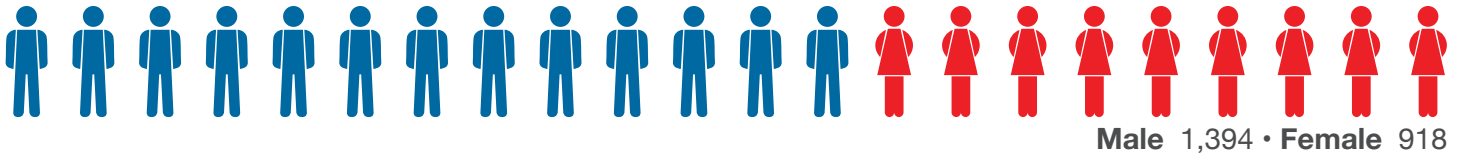
Income
\$1,909,456



To provide, in a safe environment, programs that inspire, educate, guide, and enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens.

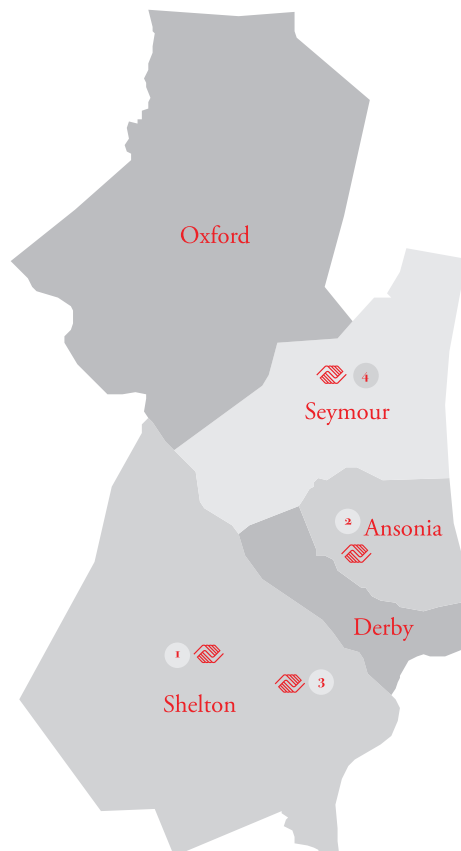
Demographics

2,312 Members



Where We Are

1. Raymond P. Lavietes Clubhouse
One Positive Place
Shelton, CT 06484
203-924-7462
2. Joel E. Smilow Clubhouse
28 Howard Avenue
Ansonia, CT 06401
203-735-1200
3. Elizabeth Shelton School Unit
138 Willoughby Road
Shelton, CT 06484
203-751-3122
4. Seymour Unit
Seymour Recreation Center
20 Pine Street
Seymour, CT 06483
203-828-6661



*Gifts received after 6/30/15 will be recognized in the 2016 Annual Report. A tremendous **THANKS** to our many supporters. If we have inadvertently omitted your name from our lists, we apologize, and please let us know.*

Gifts of \$25,000 & Above

Joel E. Smilow
Katharine Matthies Foundation
Valley Community Foundation

Gifts of \$15,000 & Above

Comodore Hull Race
Col. Lloyd E. & Joan Platt
Witmer Scholarship Fund

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Light Sources, Inc.
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New Sunshine
Pat Carey
Pimentel Construction Co.,
Inc.
Rebecca Golebieski
Sunevolutions
The Early Family Foundation
Universal Connectivity
Venman & Co. LLC
William C. Nimons

Friend's Circle • \$250

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P.C.
Bertha Belden
Carol Sojka
CT Cambridge Advisors, LLC
David Kopchick
Devoted Creations
Dominick Thomas
Eileen Lopez-Cordone
Helmer N. Ekstrom Fund
James Bohl CPA, PC
James Ryan
John Rizzo
John Zaprzalka
Joseph Nagy
Kenneth Wilczewski
LeRoy Glover
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MJ Metal Inc.
MR International, LLC
Nail Savers
Nicholas Luise
Norvell Skin Solutions
Robert Scarduzio
Smith Brothers Insurance
Susan DeLeon
U.S. Products, Inc.

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LLC
EyePro, Inc.
GE
Huntington United Methodist
Church
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Jeffrey Prior
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John Intravaia
John Ribas
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Louis Dagostine III
Lynne Perry
Maria Maldonado
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Norman K. Santa
Northwestern Mutual
Paul Burstein
Paychex
Pitney Bowes
Platform Specialty Products
Richard Colwell, Jr.
Scott Wurms
Shelton Economic Development
Corporation
Steven Glowa
SunWest
Suzanne Dias
Thomas Wells
Yashu Putorti

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Anna May Fioravante
Dorothy Grasso
Irene Laborie
Jane Levinsky
William "Bing" Miller
Genevieve Reilly
Teresa Sedlock
Norman K. Santa

Mildred M. Davey

Mildred M. Davey was a life-long resident of Shelton and active in her community. She was a long-time Corporator of our Boys & Girls Club and set up a trust to continue supporting our organization after her passing in 2015. Mildred was a former Director and member of the Executive Committee of the Valley United Way and President of the Friend A. Russ Fund, Inc. We are honored to have been among the organizations she held close to her heart.



Board Events

**Champion of Youth Award
presented to Toyota Financial**



**Raymond P. Laviertes Service to Youth
Award presented to Linda Welch**



**John “Red” Larsen
Golf Classic**

Gold Sponsor

Serra & DelVecchio Insurance Group

Silver Sponsors

Key Development

Miller Investment

Oatley Mechanical Services

Bronze Sponsors

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**Herbie Rollinson Memorial
5K Run-walk**

Marquis Sponsor

Exchange Club of Shelton

Silver Sponsors

Naugatuck Valley Savings & Loan

Oatley Mechanical Services

Bronze Sponsors

Iroquois Gas Transmission System,
L.P.

Valley Parish Nurse Program



**Dr. Edward G. Bednar
Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast
sponsored by the family of “Doc” Bednar**



College Scholarship Funds • \$22,313

Coram Gardens

This award was established in 1987 by the former Coram Gardens Civic Association to help improve the quality of life for those people from the geographic region of Coram Gardens. Since its inception, more than \$137,000 has been disbursed to help defer the cost of college tuitions.

Recipients: [Jessica Cipriano](#), [Jessica Mehaylo](#)

Raymond P. Lavietes

This award was established in 2005 by long-time friend and supporter Ray Lavietes. Ray left our Boys & Girls Club a bequest of \$100,000 to help our members afford a secondary education. Thanks to Ray's generosity, more than \$43,000 has been disbursed in scholarship funds.

Recipients: [Brooke Grand](#), [Jennifer Marila Saberi](#), [Lauren Simon](#)

Dr. Edward G. Bednar

This award was established in 2010, in memory of "Doc" Bednar, a long-time Board member and unfailing supporter of our Club and the children who attend every day. Since the first scholarship only five years ago, the Bednar family has already awarded more than \$12,200 to help students pursuing an education in the health-care field.

Recipients: [Matthew Borges](#), [Veronica Devine](#), [Alina Gonzalez](#)

George C. & Margaret Smith

George C. and Margaret Smith left a surprise bequest to our Boys & Girls Club. Since its inception this fund has provided more than \$114,000 for secondary education to our young men and women.

Recipients: [Fred Dapp](#), [Brianna Donnarummo](#), [Alina Gonzalez](#), [Brooke Grand](#)