



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF THE LOWER NAUGATUCK VALLEY



Annual Report 2018

Leadership Team

Every child has a dream. For some it's as basic as having a nice home or having a good friend, for others, as far reaching as going to college or landing a dream job. But for some, the dream is food on the table or a family to sit down with at the end of the day. Parents are doing their best to be there for their kids but are challenged by long working hours to make ends meet. And that's where we come in.



plan reflects the changing world we live in and capitalizes on our strengths to deliver the best outcome for our children.

"Great Futures Start Here" is our Club's slogan. If you take a minute to think about those four small words, you begin to understand our mission and why we work so hard every day to

help our kids discover their dreams and take steps to make them come true. Brooke, our 2015 Youth of the Year—who also captured the titles of both Connecticut and Northeast Region Youth of the Year—is a shining example of this approach. Brooke went from being unsure whether or not she would even be able to attend college to earning a full scholarship through her achievements at the Boys & Girls Club. Brooke excelled in college, maintaining a solid 4.0 GPA, and she has now graduated from college in only three and a half years. She's been interning with Toyota, and has the brightest of futures ahead of her.

We are the Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley, and our doors are open when school is out. We are here to partner with families to keep their children off the street when they can't be around. We are a low-cost solution, and we turn no child away due to financial difficulties. But we are not only a safe and affordable place for kids—our Club is well known for our exceptional leadership and life-changing programs. We have been recognized repeatedly, locally and nationally, for our service.

This is due in large part to our Board of Directors. We are proud to say that our Board is strong, effective, and committed to our Club. At the start of every Board meeting, we read our mission statement to keep it forefront in everyone's mind. One hundred percent of our Board participates in our annual appeal, sending a clear message that our Board is passionate about our mission and support it generously. In 2018 our directors once again came together to update our strategic plan, which they do every three years. The new three-year

To our amazing Board, staff, volunteers, and community partners: we can't thank you enough for your investment, be it time or money, to make the Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley a place where dreams do come true and where lives are changed year after year.

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Board President

Shaye A. Roscoe
Executive Director

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Executive Director

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Director of Operations

Lisa Savoid
Marketing & Development Director

Marie Ambrosini
Finance & HR Administrator

Ann Marie Wheeler
Office Manager

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Unit Director
Adam Manning,
Program Director

Joel E. Smilow Unit
Breon Sanders, Unit Director
Baron Jones, Program Director

Seymour Unit
Jesse Patrick, Unit Director

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Minuteman Press of Shelton

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Toyota Financial Services

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Retired School Principal

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* Past President



Top row, left-right: Karen Bentlage, Harry Burlakoff, Brendan Carey, Pat Carey, Rich Carroll, Martin Coughlin, Louis Dagostine III, Sooz DeLeon, Chris Douglas, Bart Flaherty, Mike Healey, Rob Lesko. **Second row:** Vincent Luzietti, Bernard McGorty, William M. Miller, Jr., Aleta Miner, Ken Nappi, Joseph A. Pagliaro, Jr., Christen Perry, Joseph Salemme, John F. Santa, John Schaible, Fred Serra, Lisa Serra. **Bottom row:** Diane Stroman, Dominick Thomas, Jimmy Tickey, Linda Welch.



The Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley is a United Way Agency

Youth of the Year



“On days when I feel insignificant, I find myself...mentoring the younger members at my Club.... I now know that they view me as a role model....”

When Victoria's single father dropped her off at the Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley for the first time, little did she know that entering any kind of social setting would spark anxiety and enhance her feelings of abandonment. Her mother had left her and her four siblings to be raised by their father, and weekly visits with her mother were full of emotional abuse.

It turned out that the Club was a balm for this pain. “I was welcomed with a smile and open arms here. My peers and the staff supported and cared about me. They wanted to see me succeed which, in turn, made me want to do the same.”

Tragically, her home life splintered further, and Victoria was forced to leave her father and move in with her mother. No longer able to attend the Club, resentment for her mother and her situation fueled every decision she made, which were often harmful. She was hanging out with the wrong crowd, following their lead, and hating her situation and who she was becoming.

When she was finally able to return to our Boys & Girls Club, she felt she'd come home. The Club taught her life skills she was lacking—teamwork, dedication, and responsibility. Smart Moves, crocheting, ping pong, and Keystone Club helped lay the foundation for what she would soon realize, that she was a leader, and being active in Keystone gave her more opportunities than she ever imagined. Traveling and discovering the world with the Club has broadened her horizons and instilled in her the desire to give back.

Working alongside her fellow Keystoneers, Victoria took part in planning and implementing a forum with local law enforcement and teens for the Keystone National Project. The forum allowed the teens to voice their opinions and questions, hear the police officers' perspectives, and try to make sense of what was going on around them in their community.

Participation in the forum helped crystallize Victoria's choice for her senior Capstone project for school—volunteering with and shadowing our local police officers. She went on ride-alongs, learned about the dispatch process, and had one-on-one discussions with the officers—a valuable asset for her future goal of becoming an officer herself. It also helped her start on her vision of changing the relationship between teens and police because many of her peers were in awe of what she was able to do.

As a child, Victoria yearned for someone to just listen to what she had to say. She learned from the staff at the Club what it means to be compassionate towards others. Victoria found her inner strength with the support of her mentors at the Club, and knows that the values and strength she has found here will carry her into the future.

“On days where I feel insignificant, I find myself spending time with and mentoring the younger members at my Club,” Victoria says. “It is through them that I find the empowerment to keep pushing through because I now know the impact I have and that they view me as a role model. I am forever indebted to my Boys & Girls Club for that.”



Leadership Programs

Before attaining Youth of the Year, our Club members have the opportunity to sharpen their leadership skills through multiple programs: Youth of the Month, Boy of the Year, Girl of the Year, and Jr. Youth of the Year. Each offers members training and practice for the future.

Jr. Youth of the Year and Boy & Girl of the Year programs help Club members hone their leadership skills and be recognized for their achievements in the Club, at school, and in the community. Members must be nominated for the recognition, and the competition includes a formal interview with a panel of local judges. The winner represents their Club at speaking engagements and appearances throughout the year.



Left-right Louis and Da'Yanna, Joel E. Smilow Unit Boy & Girl of the Year. Luis & Mikayla, Raymond P. Lavietes Unit Boy & Girl of the Year. Tyler, Seymour Unit Jr. Youth of the Year and Alexandria, Seymour Unit Girl of the Year.

Youth of the Month

Every month during the school year we recognize outstanding achievements of two members at each of our units. These youth are chosen for their exemplary behavior, strong character, and active involvement in youth development activities and are presented with a special award during a monthly assembly.



2017-2018 Youth of the Month

Lavietes Unit

Oct Keenan, Taj, Kevin, Ryan
Nov Brianna, Aniyah, Julian, Marc
Dec Alexander, Kayden, Jamie, Lilly
Jan Addyson, Travon, Ava, Sheldon
Feb Xavier, Olivia, Xavier, Lilian
Mar Abigail, Chloe, Alexis, Sean
Apr Tate, Isaac, Oluwatise, Siommara
May Kaitlyn, Anthony, Vanessa, Charles
Jun Sophia, Mikayla, Willie, Thais

Smilow Unit

Oct Symone, Da'Jiour, Kaniya
Nov Kiara, Connor, John
Dec Mekhi, Louis, Analiese
Jan Da'Yanna, Nevaeh, Kyrhan
Feb Jordan, Sydney, Ashmer

Mar Mateo, Aiden, Leandria
Apr Kendell, Keon, Alleyanna
May Brandon, Eric, Tanner

Seymour Unit

Sep Ana & Adley, Jaelynn & Jack, Jahnai & Daniel
Oct Gianna, Desirae, Reese
Nov Anali, Lila, Michael
Dec Marleigh, Ayon, Jon
Jan Matt, Isaac, Alesia
Feb Allie, Julianna, Alex
Mar Anthony, Ayden, Sebastien
Apr David, Ana, Tyler
May Kayleigh, Kira, Nick
Jun Jordin, Liliana, Lexi



Our Alumni Association raises money throughout the year for our kids. These funds have allowed us to provide many "extras," such as a storage closet for the gymnasium in our Joel E. Smilow Clubhouse, Keystone Club funding for our Smilow and Raymond P. Lavietes Units, and annual awards dinners for our Smilow, Lavietes, and Seymour Units.

Our 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.



Program Sponsors

\$10,000+

BGCLNV Alumni & Friends Association

\$5,000+

Breakout Athlete

Charter Arms

\$2,500+

Unilever

\$1,500+

Dr. Edward G. Bednar Family

In Kind

Ansonia Board of Education

Ansonia Food Services

Ansonia Police Department

Atty Joseph Jaumann

Bart Flaharty

Ben Trabka

Blanchette Sporting Goods

Caloroso Eatery & Bar

Cathi Kellet

Centrix

Charter Arms

Chaz of WPLR

Claudia Odika

Curtiss Ryan Honda

Derby Police Dept.

Diamond Cutz Barber's Lounge & Salon

DiMatteo Group – Insurance, LLC

Doggie Styles

Donald W. Smith, Jr., PE.

Dr. Mark Shwartz Dental

Echo Hose Hook & Ladder Co. #1

Edward F. Adzima Funeral Home

Edward Gaynor

Electri-Cable Assembly

Elise Wood

Food Corps

Gap

Home Depot

Ice Cream Shoppe

Italian Pavilion

J Cutz

J&B Autobody Inc.

Jeff's Appliance

Jersey Mikes

Jessica Champagne

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Kathleen Kelley

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Michael Maglione

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PC Richard & Sons

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Prudential

Riverview Funeral Home

Service after Service

Seymour Board of Education

Seymour Police Department

Shelton Board of Education

Shelton Youth Services Bureau

Spooner House

Stop & Shop

Tanya Silva

Town of Seymour

Toyota

Unilever

Valley Angels

Valley United Way

Valley United Way Youth

Leadership Grant

Walmart

Wayback Burgers

WPLR

Yale Community Rowing

Zani's Pizza

In kind donations are dollars saved which we apply directly to support the programs and services we provide for our members. We are sincerely grateful for this assistance. In some cases, our programs couldn't run without it.

Our Impact



Education & Career

- 251 Arts & Crafts
- 259 Computer Tech, Computer
- 693 Power Hour
- 20 Reading with Remy (pictured)
- 44 STEM Mentoring
- 11 Team Lego

Character & Leadership

- 2 Junior Staff
- 32 Keystone Club
- 84 Torch Club
- 86 Volunteer Hours

Health & Life Skills

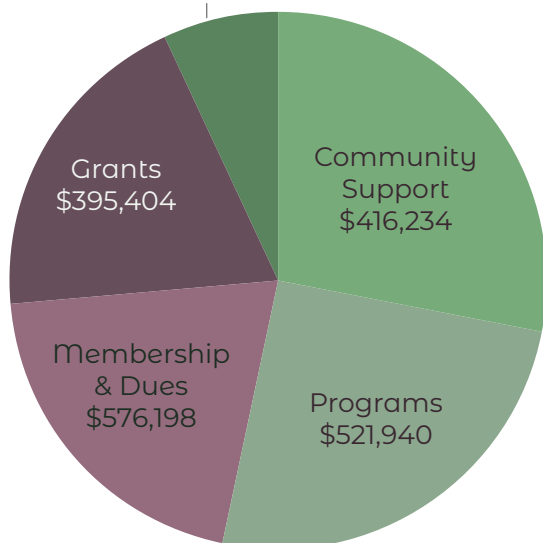
- 75 Cooking
- 8 Dance
- 710 Games Room
- 98 Passport to Manhood
- 122 Resistance Skills
- 572 Sports
- 842 Triple Play

2017-2018 Financials (Unaudited)

Fiscal Year July - June

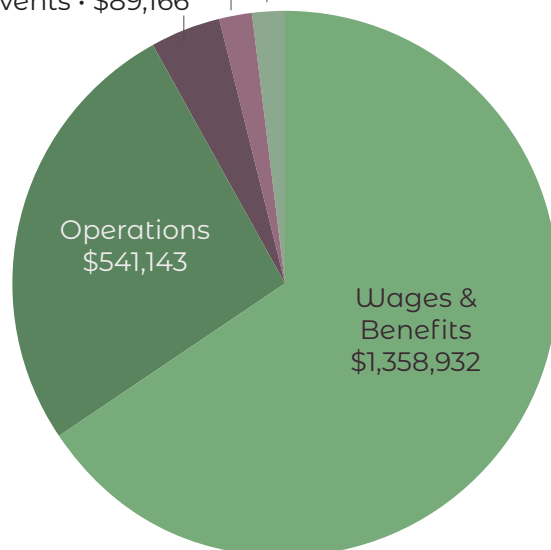
Income • \$2,051,866

Special Events • \$142,090



Expense • \$2,065,359

Programs • \$37,165
Grants • \$38,953
Special Events • \$89,166



Connect with us on social media



Official Website
BGC-LNV.org

Alumni & Friends Association
BGC-LNV.org/alumni-friends-association

Facebook
Facebook.com/BGCLNV

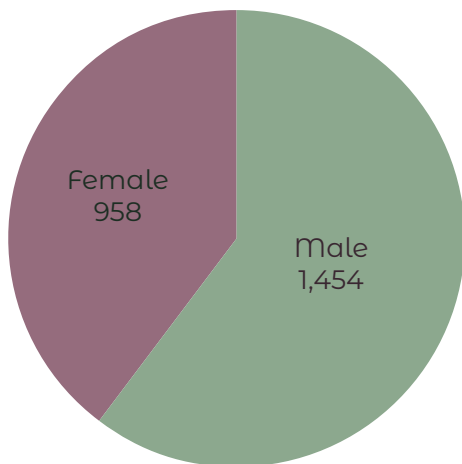
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Twitter.com/BGCLNV

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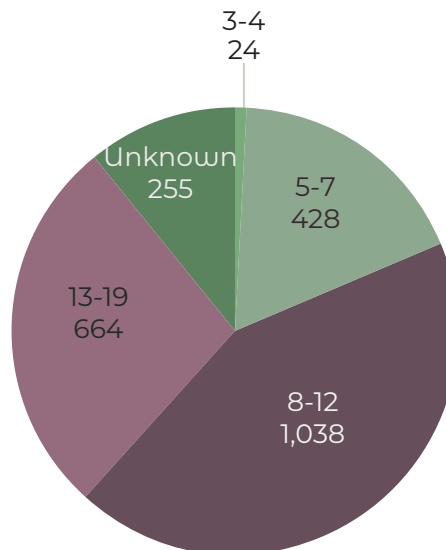


Demographics • 2,412 Members

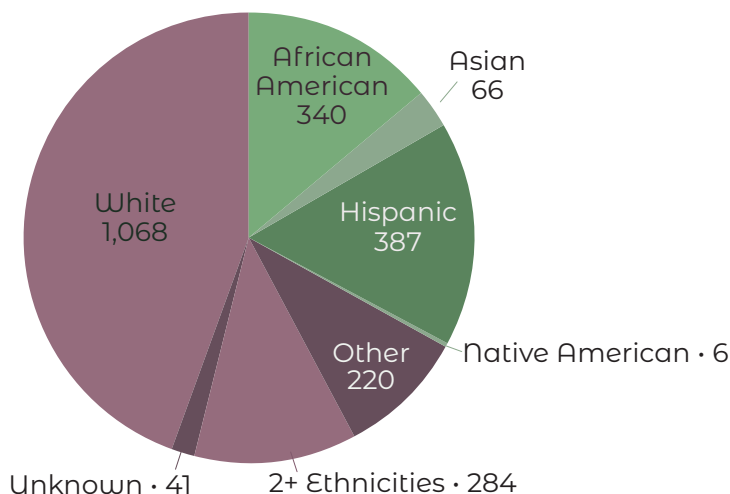
Gender



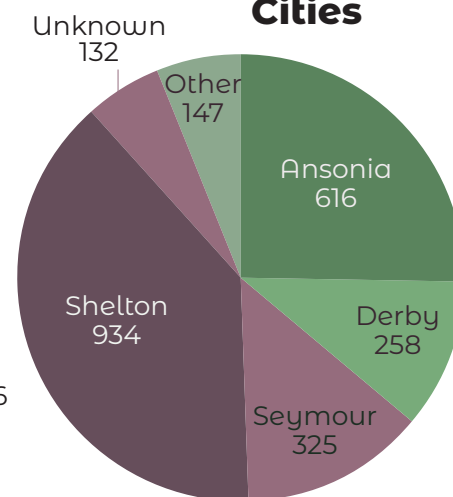
Ages



Ethnicities



Cities



Corporators

William Ahern
Achille Apicella
Robert Araujo
Walter Archer, III
Stephen Balog
David Blackburn
Judy Bosch
Maureen Coffey
Jennifer Cohen-Neil
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Kevin Condon
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Michael Dadonna
Peter Dagostine

Ralph Dagostine
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Dan Debicella
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Thomas Zaprzalka

Donors

Back-a-Kid
Invest in the Future

2017-2018 Fiscal Year. Gifts received after 6/30/18 will be recognized in the 2018 Annual Report. A tremendous thank you to our many supporters. If we have inadvertently omitted your name from our lists, we apologize, and please let us know

Major Donors

Bassett Family
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Connecticut Alliance of
Boys & Girls Clubs
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Valley United Way
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Raymond P. Lavietes
Foundation
Shelton Exchange Club
Foundation
UPS Foundation

Our Mission

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.

Donors

2017-2018 Fiscal Year

Back-a-Kid
Invest in the Future

A-Quick Pick Crane Service

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Carol Sojka

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Dana English

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Deborah Cooper

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Diane Stroman

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2017-2018 Fiscal Year

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Kenneth Wilczewski
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Marianne Smythe
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Martin Coughlin
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Michael Richards Salon
Michael Wynne
Mike Mihrzad
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Mohegan School
Newtown Savings Bank
Nickie O'Toole Realty
Pat Carey

Paul Vazzano/ Center One
Eleven
PBIRx
People's United Bank
Perry Hill School
Peter Gintoli
Premier Manufacturing Group
Prisco Panza
PSEG
R.D. Scinto
Radzwillas Kitchen and Bath
Design
Ralph Harrison
Ramon Sous
Raymond Kostka
Richard Carroll
Richard Foehrenbach
Riverbend Estates
Road Ready Used Cars
Robert Ahearn
Robert Caponi
Robert Lesko
Robert Miller
Robert Scarduzio
Robert Zuraw
Rory Burke
Ryan O'Connell
Sarah Widomski
Sharon Closius
Shaye Roscoe
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SoVita Chiropractic Center of
Derby
Splash Car Wash
Stacey Tall
Stephen Archer
Stephen J. Geissler
Steve & Pam Blanchette
Susan Gulliuzza
T-Mobile
The Benevity Community
Impact Fund

The Hatfield Fund
The O'Dell Group
Thomas Sutnik
TK Wax Center 2 LLC
Town of Oxford
United Way Coastal Fairfield
County
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Vincent Luzietti
Vincent Maiolo
Vincenzo & Italo Petrazzuoli
Walter Koerting
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Warren Wilczewski
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William M. Miller, Jr.
William Sheehy
William Zaleha

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Anthony DiGiordano
Charles Savoid
Dan Simonetti
Danielle Sarafin
Donald Jensen
Donald W. Smith
Gus Klarides
Joseph Correia
Julius Parks
Patricia Eldridge
Sheila Shea
Tony Perri

In Honor Of

Brian McCoy
K.J. Bartek

College Scholarship Funds

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, nearly \$160,000 has been disbursed to help defer the cost of college tuitions.

Recipients: Victoria, Jaylan, Sabrina, Juliana, Ronald

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 \$51,000 has been disbursed in scholarship funds.

Recipients: Jennifer, Megan, Holly, Julia, Taylor

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 nearly \$130,000

for secondary education to our young men and women.

Recipients: Samantha, Isabella, William, Natalia

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, the Bednar family has awarded nearly \$30,000 to help students pursuing an education in the healthcare field.

Recipients: Matthew, Mackenzie, Kiara, Paulina

Nina Poeta Memorial Scholarship

The Poeta Family established this scholarship in 2016 for a Boys & Girls Club graduating senior who best exemplifies Nina's qualities: kindness and compassion, a good work ethic, leadership, service to community, and academic success.

Recipient: Mikayla

Fortin Family Foundation

The Fortin Family Foundation scholarship is provided for students pursuing education in a trade such as manufacturing, carpentry, plumbing, or engineering and has provided our Club members with \$10,000.

Recipients: Kyle, Keith

Sheila Shea Scholarship

New this year is the Sheila Shea scholarship, created in memory and honor of Sheila Shea, an esteemed educator in the Shelton school system. This scholarship focuses on students pursuing a career in education.

Recipient: Mikayla

George and Beatrice Ryan Scholarship Fund at the Valley Community Foundation

George Ryan of Curtiss-Ryan Honda established this scholarship to help students planning to study automotive administration, sales, or technology and has provided more than \$20,000.

Recipients: Victoria, Mikayla



Special Events

From the Night at the Club in March, Doc Bednar's Pancake Breakfast in May, Red Larsen's Golf Classic in August, and the Thanksgiving Day race in November, thank you for a year of generous support of our goal to help every child achieve their greatest potential.

"Doc" Bednar Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast

Dr. Edward G. "Doc" Bednar was a proud member of our Board of Directors, and one of his favorite events was our Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast. After his death in 2008 we renamed the breakfast after him in honor of his unwavering dedication both to the event and our Club kids. His family has continued his philanthropic tradition, and now sponsors the popular breakfast every year.



John "Red" Larsen Golf Classic

Our John "Red" Larsen Golf Classic has run every year since 1972. Red participated in almost every tournament while he was alive, chaired half of them, and usually spent the night before the tournament stuffing tee-favor bags. His love for children and dedication to our Club were rivaled only by his love for his family and the game of golf.

MAJOR SPONSORS



Nick Luise

Commodore Hull Thanksgiving Day 5K Road Race

MAJOR SPONSORS



The Commodore Hull Thanksgiving Day 5k Road Race has become a noted and looked-for Valley event every Thanksgiving and has been operating for the past 16 years. Our Boys & Girls Club has been the beneficiary of the race from the beginning, and the original race "crew" turned the race over to us in 2017. Greco & Haines has been the flagship sponsor from the start, providing a high-quality race shirt to all the runners. The Valley Community Foundation's generous grant covers discount registration fees for students and free registration for seniors. Started in 2002 by a small committee of volunteers who wanted to create a community event that would recognize one of the greatest naval heroes in U.S. history, Commodore Isaac Hull, and bring attention to the changes happening in the downtown areas of Shelton and Derby, the race is truly a community event. Both cities support the race, including their Mayors, parks and recreation departments, police, firemen, and emergency services.



Night at the Club

A Night at the Club gave guests a chance to experience a little of what it means to be a Club kid while raising money for the Club's year-round operations. The night was filled with entertainment, games, food, live auction, and appearances by our Club kids.



**NIGHT
AT
THE
CLUB**



Service to Youth

Martin Coughlin and **Jack Walsh** were honored with our **Raymond P. Lavietes Service to Youth Award** this year in recognition of their tireless and unselfish efforts to make the Valley a better place for children. This award is the highest honor our Club can bestow on an individual.

Our highest honor for organizations is the **Champion of Youth Award**, which was presented this year



to **Serra & DelVecchio Insurance, Charter Arms, the City of Ansonia, and The Friends of Jimmy Miller, Inc.**

From the Heart Award is presented to individuals and organizations whose special acts of caring are often the touch that makes their chosen program, event, or Unit a success. This year's recipients are the **Exchange Club of Shelton, Marissa DeRosa, Mark Dymerski, and Fred Ortoli.**

Above: Dominick Thomas presents Jack Walsh with his Service to Youth award, and Shaye Roscoe presents the award to Martin Coughlin. Below, Left-Right: Michael Duncan, Jason Grueb, John Santa, and Justine Grueb of the Exchange Club of Shelton; Jack Walsh; Martin Coughlin; Marissa DeRosa; Mark Dymerski and his son, Lucas; Fred Serra of Serra & DelVecchio Insurance; Joe Palmucci and Terry Rooney of the Friends of Jimmy Miller; Nick Ecker of Charter Arms; Fred Ortoli

