

ANNUAL REPORT 2008



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF THE LOWER NAUGATUCK VALLEY



**To provide,
in a safe
environment,
programs
that inspire,
educate,
guide, and
enable all
young people,
especially
those from
disadvantaged
circumstances,
to realize their
full potential
as productive,
responsible,
and caring
citizens.**

The **Positive** Place For Kids



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

One of the most lasting memories that I will cherish from my term as President of the Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley is the absolute dedication of the Board members and the employees to the "kids" of the Club. These young children represent everyone's hope for the future. The impression of love, caring, and leadership that the Board and employees are instilling in these children is the blueprint for the children to follow into adult life.

Although these are challenging economic times which really put pressure on all of the Club's resources, we all realize that our goal and direction for the Club will never change. We are committed to supporting these young people and making this part of their lives a positive experience, in a safe harbor environment, with the emphasis on character building.

This year, 2008, is a very special year for the Boys & Girls Club. We are not only opening a new Clubhouse in Ansonia, but we have opened a club in Milford. In the first month at Milford, more than 125 young people signed up to be members. This Milford club now has more than 300 members



and serves close to 100 young people a day in the West Shore Community Center.

Our Club is "One Positive Place," just ask any of the thousands of young people from the Valley that walk into the Shelton Clubhouse during the year. To all of our club members, this club is a home away from home.

As a Board, we are all very proud of each and every one of the young people that make the Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley one of the top 25 clubs in America.

The Boys & Girls Club is a positive place for kids. And no organization does a better job for our kids. I want to thank each and every one of you who have supported this club during my Presidency, our committee chairmen, our donors, and especially the Building Committee whose monumental task of building the new Ansonia club is almost complete.

Thank you.

Michael P. Healey
President
Board of Directors

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

It was just a year ago that I shared the dreams of our organization with you, dreams that were like a Star Trek journey filled with the perils of the unknown—a journey to service children who had never been served and to open doors where no club has ever gone.

So many children need our help, kids walking the streets without direction or a sense of belonging, at-risk youth doing poorly in school with high drop-out rates. Kids dealing with the lure of drugs, crime, and gangs, seeing no alternative and having very little hope.

But our dreams for these kids are now a reality, thanks to the hard work, vision, and financial aid of our Board of Directors. They say a dream without a plan is only a wish. So the Board, under the leadership of President Michael Healey, put a plan together.

Actually, the Board put many plans together, and together with some funding from the Office of Justice Programs, we began running an after-school site at one of our dream locations—the Irving School in Derby, allowing us to serve more than 100 new members. At the same time we continued to grow the program at another dream location, Ansonia Middle School, where we now serve another 120 children while waiting for the new Ansonia Clubhouse to open.

Lastly, thanks mostly to the support of Milford's Mayor Richetelli and Speaker of the House James Amann, as well as

some start-up funding from Boys & Girls Clubs of America, we opened a new clubhouse in a third dream location—Milford, serving more than 300 children there. As an organization, we now serve more than 700 children each day after school at our combined locations, with quality programs delivered by an outstanding staff dedicated to helping each child reach his or her fullest potential.

Our local and state officials have always been there, carrying our program and economic needs to the Governor and the State Assembly—Shelton's Mayor Lauretti, Derby's Mayor Staffieri, Ansonia's Mayor DellaVolpe, Jason Perillo, Dan Debicella, Linda Gentile, Themis Klarides, Joe Crisco, and Larry Miller.

Lastly, I want to give special thanks to Don Smith, Jr.; Bill Nimons; Joseph Andreana and their committees for their leadership and dedication on the "Ansonia Project." The new Joel E. Smilow Clubhouse has taken years of hard work, but soon it will be offering programs to hundreds of children each day, just like the quality programs offered at the Raymond P. Lavietes Clubhouse in Shelton.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Ribas".

Jack Ribas
Executive Director



6&7S PROGRAM

The 6&7 program offers a variety of activities that reflect the needs of the children we serve. The development of self-confidence, self expression, positive social interaction, and self reliance is emphasized by the environment our staff provides for the members. Our goal is to assist the children to grow in a healthy way.

The children participate in different programs designed to challenge their minds and encourage recreational activities that are age appropriate. Members are aided with their homework, cheered on by our staff during indoor and outdoor games, and encouraged to use their creativity during arts and crafts. The sky is the limit for our members; we help them in any way so they can reach any goal they have.



TORCH CLUB

The Torch Club is a youth leadership and community service club for boys and girls ages 11-13. It encourages positive community and club involvement by helping others through volunteerism. This year, the Torch Club won a First Place National Award from the Boys & Girls Clubs of America for their "Recycle for Life" efforts. This involved committing a full day of games made up from recycled items that also raised awareness about recycling. Throughout the year, Torch Club also collected and recycled more than 2,100 ink cartridges and 13,000 cans and bottles. Our accomplishments from the year include raising money to buy the Spooner House a new refrigerator and creating care packages to send to U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

This year we participated in the 2008 Shelton Clean Sweep, Shelton's Adopt-a-Garden project, the Ansonia and



Shelton-Derby Memorial Day Parades (1st place award), the Ellis Island and Statue of Liberty Unilever Clean-Up Day, and a comic book and bake sale where the proceeds went to China's earthquake relief.

After a busy year, 14 Torch Club members earned the privilege of representing our Club at the 2008 Regional Boys & Girls Club Torch Club Summit in Lake George and Niagara, NY. Not only had they gone on a grand adventure, but it was due to their hard work raising the money from candy sales, redeemable cans and bottles, and fundraising activities such as the Community Car Wash and a "Dinner to Remember."



DERBY UNIT

The Raider Club after-school program is fully funded through the State of Connecticut to provide children at Irving School enhanced educational opportunities and quality recreational experiences after school. The Raider Club features a daily snack, tutoring, billiards, gym activities, art, prevention programs, African drumming, board games, crocheting, and so much more. In the 2007-2008 school year, the Raider Club had 103 members in grades 3-6 with an average attendance of 60 children per day. Children attending the Raider Club saw average increases in self esteem by more than 6 percentile points and attended school an average 13 days more than the general population at Irving School. By November 2008 the Raider Club had already reached maximum enrollment, continuing to build on the successes of the 2007-2008 Raider Program.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Alumni Association has proved to be a vital support group for the Club, raising money for youth programs and equipment, and providing technical support, materials, and work power.

The annual Alumni Golf Tournament raised \$25,000 in 2008. This paid for a new play rug for the 6&7 Program, the Awards Dinner, chess club, the music program, Girl's Night Out, Boys & Girls Club Day for Kids, the Keystone Club National Conference, and a bus to a Knicks game.

In 2008 we inducted our second group of nominees into the Hall of Fame for their standing as role models for today's youth, their leadership and dedication to youth activities, and their distinguished record of volunteer service: Ed Gaynor, Charlie Gardner (posthumously), Mike Salemm, Michelle Chase, David Marchitto, Ned Rydzy, Lou Dagostine, Joe Sedlock, Jack Walsh and Ray Blanchette.



SPORTS

This year we implemented the Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation baseball program, which helped our members build character and learn critical life lessons through baseball and softball programs. The ball field was used to grab their attention, open their eyes to their own potential, and teach them that success is within their grasp.



Another new program this summer was Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs (HOFNOD). Participants were taught how to fish as a positive alternative to negative activities. In partnership with the Shelton Police Department, the program taught children the fundamentals of casting, knot tying, and how to care for their equipment, as well as



fishing safety. Trips to local lakes were guided by Club staffers and Shelton police officers.

From baseball to fishing to our normal programs of basketball, soccer, and football, our Club members are always eager to participate in a wide range of sporting activities.

Thank you to all the parents, coaches, sponsors, and staff who volunteered to make these programs possible.



TEEN PROGRAM

The **Teen Program** for youth ages 13-18 provides after-school activities such as a flag football league, dodge ball tournaments, our weight lifting program, or games room tournaments such as pool, ping pong, air hockey, and foosball. Board games, computer programs, and arts and crafts are also available.



T.G.I.F. is a fun, safe program for middle school students that provide children the opportunity to interact with their peers in a positive, supervised setting. The program includes gym activities, dances, drama club, games room tournaments, computer games, and other exciting events. Children are encouraged to be as active as possible in all the activities. We also provide food for the kids that attend this program. With a night full of fun, who wouldn't say, "Thank God it's Friday!"

Keystone Club is one of the premier teen leadership and service programs in America. Open to Club members ages 14-18, Keystone is designed to help our teens become more productive citizens and leaders. Attending this year's national and regional Keystone conferences in Pennsylvania and California allowed members to discuss relevant teen issues with other teens from around the country. Keystoning meets the vitally important needs of adolescents for a positive group experience with the guidance of an adult advisor and opportunities to make decisions and serve others. This year our Keystoners organized "Miles for Mendes," a walk to benefit fellow club member Matthew Mendes who had been diagnosed with a tumor in his kidney. Keystoners raised donations to help the Mendes family with the financial burden of Matthew's surgery and chemotherapy.



ANSONIA UNIT

The Charger Club at Ansonia Middle School operates at full capacity with 100 total members and a daily average of 70 children. This after-school program offers an affordable opportunity for students in grades six through eight to learn, have fun, and meet new friends in a safe, structured setting. Children show pride in what they do and learn and how they improve in everyday activities. Activities include arts & crafts, sewing classes, video gaming, Smart Moves, sports, board games, ping pong, foosball, laptop computers, and tournaments. Newspaper Club, Sewing & Crafting,



and Community Service projects give each child a choice in a specialized activity. For seven years the Charger Club has operated at Ansonia Middle School, and in 2009 we will be moving to our new Joel E. Smilow Clubhouse, located just down the street from Ansonia Middle school.

MILFORD UNIT

The Boys & Girls Club Milford opened its doors on April 7, 2008, and we are happy to report a membership of 324 youth from the Milford community with a daily attendance of 70 children. Our exceptional staff provides a safe and positive atmosphere Monday through Friday from 2-8 pm for 8-18 year olds.



After school, members can take advantage of our Games Room activities such as tournaments, Staff Challenge Day, Movie Night, dances, game instruction, arts and crafts, and board game play. We enjoy keeping our members busy!



There is always an activity for the members to enjoy in the gymnasium. Whether it's a dodge ball tournament, 3 on 3 basketball, kick ball, or volleyball, we make sure our

members have fun. Ten computers in our computer room are enabled with Internet access for use with homework, interactive game play, and surfing the Web.

As the demand for our services grows, so too do our programs. Our specialized programs include Quickball (instructional baseball game), Homework Help (after school academic assistance), SmartMoves (prevention of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs), Torch Club (youth leadership group for 11-13 year olds), and Keystone Club (youth leadership group for 14-18 year olds).

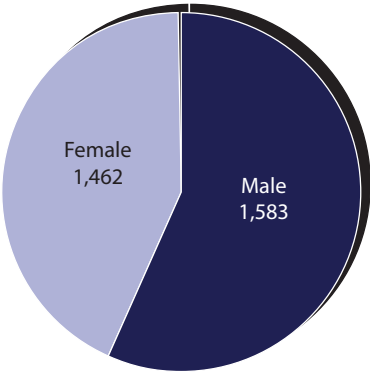
Agencies who have partnered with us to make the Milford clubhouse a success include United Way of Milford, Milford's Promise, Bridges, and the Mayor's Youth Networks. We would like to thank the leaders in our community—especially Mayor Jim Richetelli and Speaker of the House Jim Amann—who continue to support our cause.



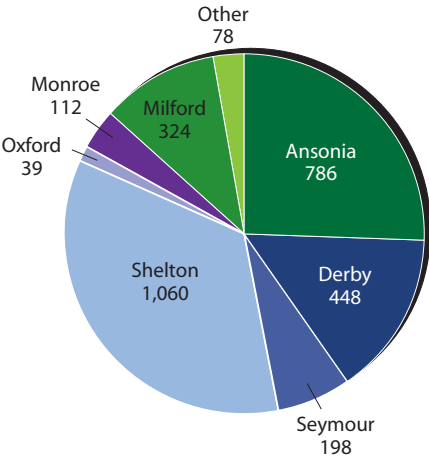
MEMBERSHIP: 3,045

ANNUAL BUDGET

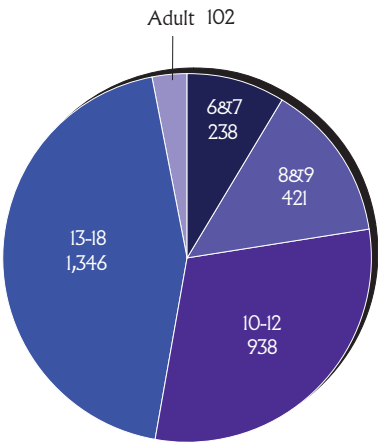
Gender



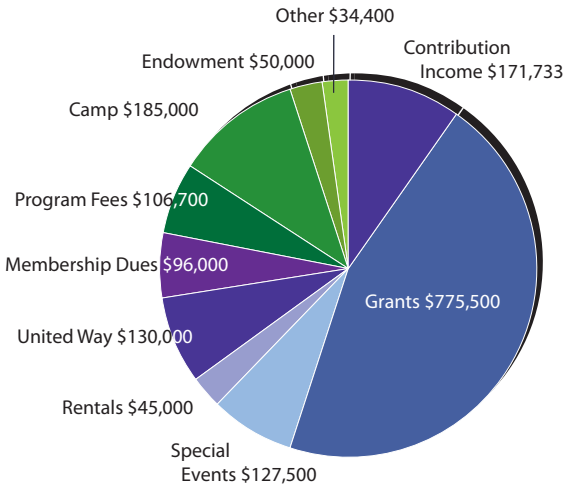
Member Towns



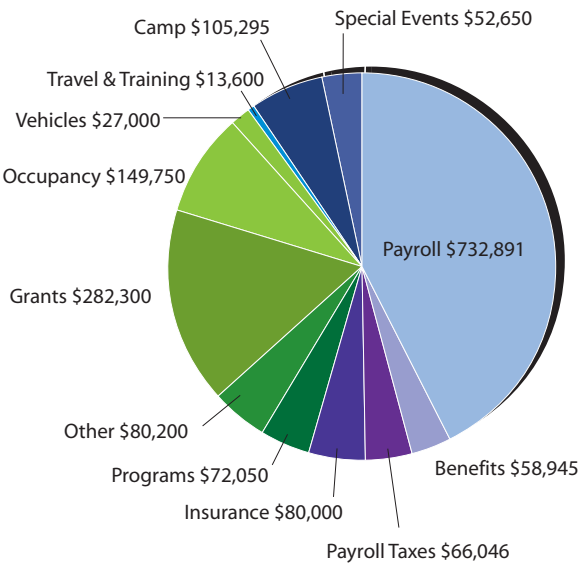
Member Ages



Total Income \$1,721,833



Total Expenses \$1,720,727



JEREMIAH MILBANK SOCIETY

Norman K. Santa
Kenneth E. Schaible

BACK A KID

1st Congregational Church, Derby
Andreana, Joseph
Anna's Place
Archdiocese of Hartford
Automated Services
Bassett, William
Bednar, Edward
Belden, Richard & Bertha
BJB Rentals-Ralph Matto
Bruce N. Griffing Trust
Burnstein Family
Capece, Frank Jr.
Carey, Patrick
Carlson, Anita
Cohen & Thomas
Colwell, Richard Jr.
Connecticut Renaissance
Cooper, Frank
Costigan, Virginia
Coughlin, Martin
Dagostine, Louis
Dagostine, Peter
Dagostine, Ralph
Davey, Mildred
Debicella, Dan
DeGennaro, Barbara
DeLeon, Susan
DellaMonica, Anthony
Douglas, Chris

Dziubina, Pierre
Egnaczyk, Gregory
Enviro-Metal
Foehrenbach, Dick
Fusti, Stephen
Gawlak, Thomas
Glover, LeRoy
Golebieski, Rebecca
Grant, David
Healey, Michael
Horbal, H. Michael
Huntington-Shelton Exchange Club
Huntington Family Dental
Huntington Glass and Mirror
Iroquois Gas
Jachimowski, Stanley
Jones, Christopher
Luise, Ernestine
Luzietti, Vincent S.
Manger, Robert Sr.
Martino, Joseph
Matto, Ralph
Mauriello, Susan Z.
McCoy, Brian
McLean Family
Miller, William M.
Miller, William M. Jr.
Miner, Aleta
Nappi, Kenneth
Naugatuck Valley Savings and Loan
Nickse, Tom
Nimons, William
O'Donnell, John
Pagliaro, Joseph Jr.
Paoletta, Samuel
Partington, Bill
Pastore, Herman

Patuzzi, Al
Pauway Corp.
Pisacane, Frank
Presutto, David
Purcell, William
Ribas, Jack
Rollinson, Herbert
F.A. Russ Fund
Rydz, Edward
Schaible, John
Smith, Donald Sr.
Sutnik, Thomas
Sylvester, Leon
Thomas, Gregory
Tice, Norman
Venman & Co.
W.E.Bassett Co.
Walmart
Walsh, John
Webster Bank
Wells, Royal B.
Wells, Thomas
Wynne, Michael
Zaprzalka, John J.

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Joseph Kowalczyk, Jr.
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Ron Wallisa
Catherine Zuraw

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G.E. Foundation
Greenwich Workshop
Griffin Hospital Corp.
Healthnet
HSBC
IBM
Ice Cream Shoppe
Inform Printing
Jeff's Appliance
Market Data Retrieval
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Santa Energy
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Ansonia Board of Education
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First Tee Foundation
FW Serra
Hawley Construction Corp.
Hewitt Foundation
Huntington Foundation
Raymond P. Laviertes Foundation
Matthies Foundation
Mohegan School Community Foundation for Greater New Haven
Office of Justice Programs
Pitney Bowes
Sikorsky
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Unilever
United Way
Valley Community Foundation
Valley Parish Nurses

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Director of Operations



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Ansonia Unit Director



Shaye A. Roscoe
Milford Unit Director



Jill DeWerd
6&7 Program Director
Torch Advisor



Matt Liacos
Derby Program Director
Technology Director

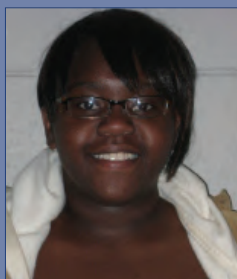


Mikey Cotela, Jr.
Teen Program Director
Keystone Advisor

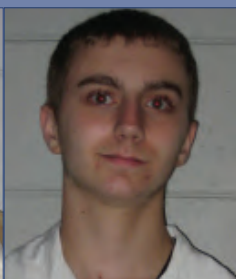


Earl Stanley
Physical Director

YOUTH OF THE YEAR



Twiza Mambwe



Mike Bocchino

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Martin Coughlin Secretary



John "Red" Larsen Golf Classic



Raymond P. Laviertes Summer Camp



Raiders Fan Club Day



Unilever America's Best Classroom



Valley Community Foundation & Inez Napolitano, Crocheting Class



Patrick M. Carey, Service to Youth



Pitney Bowes Carnival Day



Shelton Police Department, HOFNOD



University of New Haven Football Clinic



Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation



Alumni Association Hall of Fame



Ken & Nancy Rood Wine & Cheese Celebration



Unilever, Girls' Night Out



Dave Reid, Stars of Magic



Greco & Haines, Thanksgiving 5K Road Race



MARY SCHMECKER

In remembrance of our
good friend. We miss you!



Joel E. Smilow Clubhouse

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Raymond P. Lavietes
Edward "Ted" Cowey
William "Bing" Miller
Edmund D. Strang
George Berman
Herbert Rollinson
Joseph Andreana
Kenneth & Nancy Rood
John "Red" Larsen
Kenneth E. Schaible
Joseph A. Pagliaro
Fr. Robert Weiss
Kenneth F. Nappi
Norman K. Santa
LeRoy Glover
Robert Manger
David M. Grant
Richard O. Belden
Arlene A. Clancy
Dominick Thomas, Esq.
William C. Nimons
Patrick M. Carey



Julia Ramos Editor Ann Marie Wheeler Graphic Design



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OF THE LOWER NAUGATUCK VALLEY

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