



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF BURLINGTON**

Club Connection

Spring 2009

Club Announces 2009 Youth of the Year



The Boys & Girls Club of Burlington is proud to announce that long-time Club member Ashley Groves is this year's Youth of the Year, the highest honor a Club member can achieve. Boys & Girls Clubs of America's Youth of the Year program, sponsored by the Reader's Digest Foundation, recognizes teens for outstanding contributions to a member's family, school, community and Club, as well as personal challenges and obstacles overcome. Ashley went on to compete at the state level in Montpelier where she toured the State House, met legislators and was recognized on the House floor, followed by a dinner at Capitol Plaza sponsored by VELCO and Comcast, with guest speaker Kesha Ram, a Club alum and Burlington Representative. Congratulations to state-wide winner Nick Cain of the Boys & Girls Club of Brattleboro and to Ashley for their accomplishments.

Thanks to 99 Restaurant, a national sponsor of Boys & Girls Clubs across the country, for their generous contribution to this process. In recognition of her achievement, Ashley received a \$200 American Express Gift Card and a \$99 gift card to their Williston location, where they will be accepting donations to the Club from diners through early September.

Youth Centers Sponsor 2009 Burlington Mayoral Debate

On February 25, 2009 The Boys & Girls Club of Burlington, Sara Holbrook Community Center, King Street Youth Center & the Greater Burlington YMCA hosted a live forum open to participation of all the Burlington mayoral candidates. Bob Kiss (P), Andy Montroll (D), Dan Smith (I) and Kurt Wright (R) all turned out for the event moderated by Andy Potter of WCAX.

The majority of the thought provoking questions were posed by the youth, including:

- What are the programs/activities you plan on offering teens in our community? (Raven T., 18)
- What can the city do to help kids that have the desire to go to college? (Tanasia M., 17)
- How do you plan to improve our neighborhoods and combat violence and drug problems? (Ashley G., 16)

IBM Hosts Lego Robot Workshop at Winooski Unit

In honor of 2009 Engineers Week, engineers from IBM ran a workshop in February at the Boys & Girls Club of Burlington's Winooski site. During the workshop, students built and programmed Lego robots to help them experience solving real-world problems by applying math, science, and technology, while having fun!

The goal of Engineers Week is to raise awareness of the engineering profession with students and community members with hands-on science-based activities designed to engage students in problem-solving activities similar to ones that engineers encounter in their daily jobs.

Continuing IBM's long-time and incredible support of our Club, in July 2008, IBM helped open the Winooski site with a donation of a state-of-the-art computer lab. IBM has been a staunch supporter of Club initiatives and programs for years. In addition to providing state-of-the-art technology for our sites, IBM employees also regularly volunteer their time to work hands on with our youth. We are so appreciative for all the resources they provide.



Club Hosts Regional Fine Art Exhibit



Our Club was honored to host the Regional finals of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America Fine Arts Exhibit. This program encourages artistic expression in members ages 6-18 through drawing, painting, printmaking, collage, mixed media and sculpture displayed at exhibits. A panel of distinguished judges including Board member Sandra McAllister, Artist Maggie Standley, and Flashbags co-owner Laura Cheney, had the tough job of selecting winners from the among hundreds of entries in each category that will now travel on to the national competition. National winners' works are displayed throughout the year at BGCA events, including the annual National Conference. Each winning artist's work is featured in a virtual gallery on BGCA's Web sites.



Music Program Hosts CD Release Party and Ongoing Concert Series



The Hardcore & Metal Showcase Series hosted by the Boys & Girls Club of Burlington's music program has hosted 11 shows at Higher Ground that feature bands with positive lyrics. The series recently expanded to the O'Brien Community Center in Winooski and the Club's Oak Street Clubhouse in Burlington. These substance-free events draw in over 200 teens per show and, with half of the bands featuring Club members and alumni, give our kids a chance to show off their skills. In fact, the April 26th show served as a CD release party for a compilation of music from Club bands and individual members who have recorded in our studio. This is all in addition to the daily programming that offers lessons in drums, percussion, guitar and bass, access and instruction in the recording studio, and a Club member produced radio show Thursdays from 4-5pm on the Radiator 105.9 FM.

Kids Café Feeds Hundreds of Club Members

Kids Café has been cooking up a storm! Nearly 160 Club members have eaten 1,482 meals since Kids Café began in November and our numbers continue to rise. With nutritious dinners served Mondays and Fridays throughout the school year prepared in our very own kitchen and supported by Feeding America, the Vermont Foodbank, City Market and Seventh Generation, we are thrilled to be able to feed our members and take pressure of their very busy parents! This summer we look forward to supplementing camp lunches provided by the School Food Program with produce from an Intervale farm share that we will be sharing with other nonprofits in town.

Descendants of Vermont's Buffalo Soldiers Visit Oak Street

School may have been on vacation, but for the 50 Club members attending vacation camp, February 26th was a big learning experience. In celebration of Black History Month, direct descendants of the Vermont Buffalo Soldiers including Bee McCullum, Rose Mary Graveline and daughter Michelle Graveline-Welch gave an educational presentation on these brave men. The program included a narration of Black History month from founder Carter Woodson, writing contest challenge, fact sheet contest challenge and prize, Vermont Buffalo Soldier History, state-wide writing contest announcement, and a Q & A session.

Do you know who the Buffalo Soldiers were? The first Buffalo Soldiers arrived in Vermont in 1909. Though some were not pleased with the arrival of 750 black cavalry soldiers which doubled the state's entire black population, Vermont welcomed these soldiers and their shared contributions to Vermont's own black history. Thank you to Wanda Hines from the City of Burlington Social Equity Investment Project who coordinated the event and served as host.



**Check out our new Club video donated and produced by Mt. Mansfield Media
You can see it at www.bandgclub.org!**

Winooski Unit Director Receives 2009 Governor's Community Service Award

Casey Lee, Unit Director at the Boys & Girls Club of Burlington's Winooski Site at the O'Brien Community Center, was recognized for his outstanding volunteer service in the state of Vermont at an awards ceremony in Montpelier on April 25th. Casey was selected with other individuals, groups, and businesses that best exemplify the spirit of volunteerism and community service in our state. Way to go Casey!

Club Member Raven Tahair Knows How To Go!

Burlington High School senior Raven Tahair has been coming to the Club since she was 8 years old and for the past three years, she has been an active member of the College and Career Readiness program KnowHow2GO. With hard work, determination and the help of the Club staff, Raven has received a full scholarship and will attend Champlain College in the fall and major in Business. Congratulations Raven!



Boys & Girls Club Partners with Reach Up

As part of a grant from the Department of Children and Families, we have had the opportunity to have individuals receiving Reach Up assistance volunteer in our Club to help fulfill their work requirement. The staff has been privileged to meet many hardworking men and women who have helped with administrative, custodial, child care and cooking, and as an added benefit, we have been able to have two parents serve here while their children were in programs.

Perrywinkle's Hosts Trunk Show to Benefit Club



A big thank you to Perrywinkle's Fine Jewelry for hosting a fabulous trunk show to benefit the Boys & Girls Club of Burlington on March 28th at the their store at 227 Main Street in Burlington. The event brought in nearly \$4,000 for the Club! Thank you to Prudential Realty Mart for coordinating the event, to Let's Pretend Catering and Vermont Wine Merchants for donating food and beverages, to MC Tim Kavanaugh of *Late Night Saturday*, and to all who came.

Third Annual ONE Fashion Event - Another Sell Out!

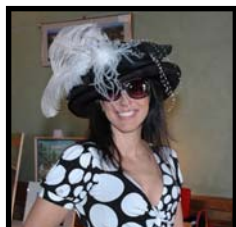


With support from title sponsor Northfield Savings Bank and local stores and designers, the third annual ONE Fashion Event rocked the house and raised over \$30,000 with a sell out crowd of nearly 300 attendees at the Higher Ground Ballroom in South Burlington. The show featured clothing and accessories designed by Boys & Girls Club members and local designers, along with nearly 15 local merchants.



Kentucky Derby Gala—The Boys & Girls Club Run for the Roses

On Saturday, May 2nd the fastest two minutes in sports was also an evening to remember for Club supporters who attended the Kentucky Derby Gala at the Barn at Lang Farm. With a sellout crowd of nearly 250 people, the Boys & Girls Club and Chittenden Bank honored Sen. Patrick Leahy and Marcelle Leahy and were thrilled to have the President and CEO of Boys & Girls Club of America, Roxanne Spillet in attendance. The evening featured dinner with Catering by Dale, dancing to the sounds of the Real Deal and of course, the races!



17th Annual NorthCountry Federal Credit Union *Links for Kids* Golf Tournament

On Monday, June 1st, the weather held for the 17th Annual Links for Kids Golf Tournament that was again sponsored by long-time supporter NorthCountry Federal Credit Union. The sold-out tournament at Vermont National Country Club featured a great day of golf and reception, and we're looking forward to next year!

Upcoming Events:

VT 100on100

The 100 ON 100 Relay is a team based distance running experience. The event starts early in the morning on August 15, 2009 and most participants finish between 8:30 AM-10:30 PM. The total distance is 100 miles and the course follows scenic route 100 the entire way. This event serves as a charity fundraiser for the alliance of Vermont Boys & Girls Clubs and has raised nearly \$10,000 for the Clubs for the past two year. There is a great need for volunteers the day of the event, if interested, please visit www.100on100.org.

Special Thanks:



Like Father, Like Son

Board member Ken Ballard is an inspiration and great supporter of the Club and must be rubbing off on his son Sam. Each month when Ken attends Board meetings, Sam will give him a handful of change that he has collected since the last meeting to donate to the Club—already a philanthropist at the ripe age of 7!

Ways to Support the Club

We welcome the support of volunteers, donors, sponsors and others who believe that every child deserves hope and opportunity.

Donors can donate online, through the mail, or with appreciated securities. Unrestricted gifts of \$10,000 or more will be enrolled in the Jeremiah Milbank Society. Donors who want to plan a bequest gift are invited to ensure that the future needs of our youth are met by including their local Boys & Girls Clubs in their estate plans. This planning might include a will, charitable gift annuity, a trust arrangement, a real estate gift or a life insurance policy.

***** The IRA Rollover provision has been extended until the end of 2009. This gift opportunity is for taxpayers 70½ years of age or better with Individual Retirement Accounts. It permits up to \$100,000 in charitable distributions directly to charity without counting the transfer as income.**

Sponsorships to support our special events are available to companies and individuals who want to and gain name/brand recognition and reach their target markets.

Join our ***It Just Takes One Annual Campaign*** and come together with other individual donors to support programming and opportunity for nearly 2,000 youth each year. We believe it just takes one person to make a difference in the life of a child. We hope you will be that one!

For more information on how to support the club please contact Sara Wool, Director of Development: swool@bandgclub.org or 802-864-0263. To donate online please visit www.bandgclub.org.

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