

## **BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA**

5432 Butler Street • Pittsburgh, PA 15201

### **Year in Review 2013**

In January, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Dapper Dan Charities Dinner was held at the Convention Center and proceeds from this event benefit our youth sports league programs. Along with Pittsburgh Steeler Heinz Ward, our Dapper Dan Athlete of the Year was recognized at the event. Cleave Randolph, a member of our Walnut Avenue Club in Duquesne was a senior attending West Mifflin Area High School and a starter on their basketball team. He has been a Club member since the Club opened in 2005 and extremely active in the Club's Dapper Dan sports programming.

Our winter sports programs were conducted throughout the winter months. Approximately 1,350 children were active in floor hockey, basketball and wrestling programs which focused on skill development, team play and good sportsmanship. Also, staff completed fitness pre-testing on many younger members through the NFL PLAY 60 Fitness Gram program. Children were again tested in the spring to measure improvement. Each day, our members participated in a fun fitness related activity as a component of the afterschool and evening programs.

Our educational programs were in high demand in all Clubs with over 2,000 participants. Clubs offered many different programs such as: Power Hour, Project Learn, Afterschool Excellence, Youth Promise and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Centers. Our newest operation funded by the state was in Duquesne City School where over 150 elementary age children were active in afterschool programs similar to our Club program.

The organization held a "New Members" drive in our Clubs during the winter. Members were encouraged to invite a "Buddy" as our special guest. Each "Buddy" received a five-day visitor's membership, a goodie bag, discounts on Club membership and sports league registration. The "Buddies" were also invited to a special pizza party in February.

Each Branch offers a meal or snack program for all of our afterschool children. Paragon Foods donated 800 snacks weekly over the past year and added a fresh fruit and vegetable snack to the menu. Typical items include: oranges, apples, carrots and celery sticks. Paragon foods has generously committed to providing snacks again in 2014.

The coordinator of our Pirates Charities funded "Reviving Baseball" program visited all of our Clubs during the spring months with a traveling indoor baseball/ softball clinic for our afterschool program. The indoor baseball complex at our Shadyside Boys & Girls Club received increased use every day with local baseball communities bringing their players to utilize the batting cages, pitching area and training room.

Members from many of our Clubs have been guests of Pittsburgh Penguin player, Evgeni Malkin at Pen's games. Our members had exclusive use of his private box for the game with great seats. Over the years, he and Sydney Crosby have donated use of their box for our members and other non-profits groups on a regular basis.

Two members, Lorin Welsh a 14 year old member of the Carnegie Club and Jessica Mayowski, a 15 year old member of the Sto-Ken-Rox Club, were selected to receive the annual "Joe Gordon Volunteer of the Year Award". Between them, they averaged 25 hours per week volunteering at their respective Clubs. They were recognized at the Youth of the Year reception in March.

The Shadyside Club offered a fine arts program during the year to its members which was funded by the Residence Inn/Marriott. Local art instructors coordinated classes in drawing, pastels, oil and acrylics painting, prints, collages and sculpting. Participants also have the opportunity to display their works locally and be entered into the Boys & Girls Clubs of America National Fine Arts Exhibit.

The teen members of the Shadyside Club had the opportunity to participate in the Bizword program presented by the Katz Graduate School of Business. The program taught the basics in entrepreneurship and operating a business.

The Northern Area Club presented its annual dance recital in March at Shaler Area High School. This year's recital was entitled "The Beat Goes On" featuring twenty five of our Club members performing dance routines that they practiced for many months.

The members of the Duquesne-West Mifflin Club participated in their annual literacy event where children had special guests visit the Club to read to them. Each child selected was provided with a favorite book.

The Wilkesburg Club held its 21st Annual Recognition Dinner program to honor its Club members, community leaders, and their Club Youth of the Year, Tyler Kirkland. The Community "Organization of the Year" was the Wilkesburg Rotary Club and Club member Taylor Harvey was named "Youth Volunteer of the Year". Tyler is currently attending Edinboro University.

Boys & Girls Club Week was celebrated during the week of April 7th. Club staff developed programs for that week highlighting the various programs we offer, special events for our members, and encouraging visitors and local community leaders to visit the Club throughout the week.

Club professional staff met and completed the annual review process through our National Organization. The "Impact Assessment" is a step-by-step internal review which considers many aspects of Clubs operations in some detail. Individual Clubs received scores on their results with the ability to create action plans to increase the quality of their programs.

Grason Woods, our Western PA "Youth of the Year" and member of the Estelle S. Campbell Club, represented our organization at the state competition also held here in Pittsburgh. Although Grason was not selected to represent our state, it was noted by many in attendance that he be voted "Mr. Congeniality" for his outgoing personality and friendliness to all. He attended army boot camp this past summer at Ft. Benning before attending Slippery Rock University. Starting in 2013, the agency wide "Youth of the Year" is named in honor of Edward J. Ferris, Sr. the former Director of the McKees Rock Boys' Club.

The agency received a donation of Pirate tickets to games throughout the baseball season through the generosity of the Pittsburgh Pirates and the Major League Baseball Players Association program "Players Give Back."

St. Margaret's Hospital once again provided workshops for our adolescent population from the Estelle S. Campbell Club. The "All About Me" program has been offered to both members of the Estelle S. Campbell and Shadyside Clubs for many years. The workshops, presented by healthcare professionals include: healthy life choices, accident response, bullying, real life choices, consequences and much more.

Members of the Robert Morris Women's Soccer Team provided instructional clinics to our afterschool members of our Sto-Ken-Rox and Carnegie Clubs during the month of April. Our hope is to expand the relationship with other teams from the university.

The opening day of the Fantasy Baseball math program was held at the LaRosa Club in McKeesport in April. Pittsburgh Pirate officials, as well as the Pirate Parrot, were on hand to "throw out the first pitch" for the program. Club members played games among themselves and also our R.B.I. coordinator held a basic clinic in the Club's gym. Fantasy Baseball was held throughout the organization with the World Series being hosted by the Pirates at PNC Park on June 1st.

Our summer day camp program operated in nine Boys & Girls Club sites during June, July and August with nearly 5,000 participants. A new component of the day camp was formal educational assemblies. Some of our partners included: the Pittsburgh Zoo, Mad Science Pittsburgh, the Audubon Society, Pennsylvania State Police, The Frick, the Carnegie Science Center and Nego Gato a performing arts group.

The Board of Directors Program & Activity Committee selected Ms. Adriana Gilbert-Furby as this year's Ackerman Scholarship awardee. She will be attending Carlow University in the fall and major in nursing. She graduated from West Mifflin Area High School with a 4.1 GPA and is a member of the Duquesne West Mifflin Club. The additional candidates all qualified for and received the Wehman Scholarship. Approximately \$24,000.00 has been awarded in agency scholarships over the past five years.

80 of our Club members were awarded scholarships to attend the Mike Tomlin and Ben Roethlisberger football camps. Members participated in drills, mini-football games, received camp shirts, and were provided lunch and an opportunity to meet Coach Tomlin and "Big Ben".

Our parents completed a survey on the Power Hour after school tutoring program. Highlighting the results were: most of our members complete their homework in our Clubs, their grades and attitude about school improved dramatically over the year, and they plan to re-enroll into the program next school year.

The Reviving Baseball in the Inner-City (RBI) program operated during the summer months throughout Allegheny County with over 1,000 participants. In partnership with Pittsburgh Pirate Charities and Major League Baseball, formal baseball and softball games were played on fields in: Wilkesburg, McKeesport, Swissvale, Homewood, Carnegie and the Hill district. Pittsburgh RBI also sponsored two baseball teams that represented our area in the regional RBI tournament in Harrisburg in July.

Over the last year, our Dapper Dan Charities funded sports programs registered thousands of young people in flag football, floor hockey, basketball, wrestling and golf. The number of registrants for leagues and clinics increased by 16% over 2012.

Many of our Clubs visited the Frick Art and Historical Center during the summer. The center provided all of the bussing and hosted tours of the Frick estate. The Frick Center also provides weekly programming during the school year for our members in Wilkesburg.

The organization developed a special fall day camp program at the Northern Area Club for children attending Shaler Area School District due to the school teachers' strike. We accommodated approximately 50 children daily throughout the strike to provide child care for working parents.

Our agency has instituted the "No School No Problem" program to accommodate the needs of working families. We open our doors early and all day on no school days throughout the school year.

Our Dapper Dan Charities funded flag football program began when our doors opened this fall. The program was offered in Carnegie, McKeesport, McKees Rocks, Duquesne, Shadyside, Wilkesburg and Lawrenceville. The program includes: football clinics and instruction, league play, play-offs and championship games held at the UPMC Sports Complex sponsored by the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Our educational programming began on September 9th with our certified teachers initiating the Afterschool Excellence program. A priority with our parents is homework help and completion. We are also offering a new version of Afterschool Excellence utilizing Education City Curriculum. A more structured lesson plan system is in use for, four nine week modules including pre and post testing. We are also utilizing NASA lesson plans, virtual speakers, digital scrapbooks, a NASA Kids Club and web quests.

Thursday, October 17th was the date for this year's Annual National Lights on Afterschool which is set aside each year for afterschool providers to host special events and tell the story of children participating in quality afterschool programs. Two of our Clubs participated in a special community wide event held at the Consol Energy Center participating in afterschool activities, a mini-college fair and a wholesome snack.

In October, at the Estelle S. Campbell Club, there was a special event in partnership with the LaMarr Woodley "Sack Attack" with the focus this year on bullying prevention. Each year, LaMarr supports our organization financially donating dollars to the Club relating to his number of sacks during the season. The children received treats, entertainment, free books from Reading is Fundamental and participate in a literacy-related essay contest. LaMarr is a former Club member and was on hand as always to make the children feel special.

In addition to our current educational programming, a new program "SPARK", funded by Boys & Girls Clubs of America, was initiated in Duquesne Schools. Certified teachers from our staff will be on site during the school day providing one-on-one educational support and instruction for their students. This is one of eight pilot programs nationwide.

500 tickets for members and their families were donated by the Pittsburgh Penguins for their annual youth day. Many of the attendees had their first visit to the Consol Energy Center.

Through the generosity of Pittsburgh Penguins player James Neal, many of our members and their families are attending Penguins hockey games this season. James has donated four tickets in a prime seat location to all home games. He also visited members at the Carnegie Club.

We are a proud program partner in our educational programs with BNY Mellon and a deeply appreciative recipient of numerous Day of Caring projects at three of our sites. More than 100 volunteers from BNY Mellon have participated in repair/renovation and beautification projects over the past year making a noticeable difference in our facilities.

Employees of KPMG visited the Estelle S. Campbell Club's afterschool program in November and presented reading activities with a Dr. Seuss theme. The Club members also received school supplies and snacks provided by KPMG.

The Duquesne City community came together to rebuild the Hamilton Street playground which is very near to our Club in Duquesne. Through the combined efforts of our Club, Kaboom (a national non-profit dedicated to rebuilding playgrounds), the City of Duquesne and funding from the Heinz Endowment, the project was completed over a weekend. Our Club members will benefit from this revitalization project.

Will Allen of the Pittsburgh Steelers hosted a Christmas shopping trip for members of the Sto-Ken-Rox Club. Will provided each member with \$100 to purchase gifts for family members and they all received a Beats Headphone. Thanks to his generosity.

Pet Smart Charities donated over 400 plush animals to Club members during the holiday season. A big thank you to them for their support.

We were fortunate this year to receive the "Award of Excellence" once again from the United Way of Allegheny County along with \$340,000 in Community Impact Funding for agency-wide "After School Excellence Programs" and \$100,000 in funding for our "Be Great" teen career preparation, financial literacy, and teen employment services.