

THE CLUBS

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF PORTLAND METROPOLITAN AREA

FALL 2009

Boys & Girls Clubs of America Calls Upon Community Leaders

IF YOU THINK NOW IS A TOUGH TIME TO BE IN BUSINESS, TRY BEING A KID.

Our children today are caught in a perfect storm of inopportunity. Schools nationwide are slashing programs and services – while the community organizations that have traditionally picked up the slack are beset with the same economic challenges that have brought whole industries to the brink of collapse.

The truth is, it's never easy being a non-profit. These days it's downright daunting, especially for those community organizations dedicated to the protection and development of our children. When a local youth agency fails, there are no severance packages. No bonuses. No second chances. Just scores of children with one less haven to turn to during non-school hours.

We cannot let this happen. We cannot let children slide so far down our list of societal priorities. For what good is a growing, stimulated economy if it leaves millions of children behind?

Sure, money helps. But real solutions come in many forms. Time. Compassion. Generosity. Some merely require a person just like you to stand up and say, "Failure is not an option. Not here. Not in my community. Not with my kids."

Will you be that person? **Will you be the one to give those children a voice?**

Fun & Healthy Foods at Fresh Choices Challenge



Governor Ted Kulongoski with his Fresh Choices team, The Sizzlers



Senator Margaret Carter and Police Commander Jim Ferraris, with Boys & Girls Club Board members Ken O'Neill and Judge Keith Meisenheimer



Former NBA Trail Blazer, Terry Porter with Club member and staff, Josh Stanley



Gov. Kulongoski and team choosing fresh ingredients for their quesadillas

The Blazers Club hosted a Fresh Choices Challenge in honor of the state-wide launch of a major transformation of the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) nutrition program.

Three teams of Blazers Club kids participated in an Iron Chef-style cookoff, where they were given 30 minutes to prepare a creative and healthy meal based on a standard recipe for bean and vegetable quesadillas. The teams were led by Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski, Senator Margaret Carter and local restaurant owner Janette Kaden of Tin Shed.

The Challenge celebrated new healthy food choices available to families through the WIC program. These include milk and fresh fruits and vegetables. Club kids enjoyed tasting new foods and learning that cooking a nutritious meal can be a fun family activity.

Challenge teams were judged on presentation, taste, nutrition, cleanliness & teamwork, and everyone was a winner! Former NBA Trail Blazer, Terry Porter, stopped by the event and talked to the group about the importance of health and community involvement.

The Boys & Girls Club was a natural partner for this event. At the Clubs, healthy meals are an important component of our Health & Life Skills core program area. Nearly 70% of our Club members are eligible for free and reduced rate school lunch programs. This mirrors the need seen throughout Oregon today.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland is committed to preventing hunger in our members' lives. Food insecurity often leads to poor academic performance, higher levels of aggression and anxiety, and poor health. Our Kids Cafe program alleviates these potential effects by offering nutritious snacks and meals to nearly 1,000 kids every day.



Old Navy Outfits Club Teens in Winter Clothing

Twenty teen members of the Regence Boys & Girls Club were treated to a shopping spree at Old Navy as part of a national "One and a Million" event. Old Navy sales associates volunteered their time to act as personal shoppers for the teens, helping them choose new clothes for the winter. Each teen received more than \$60 to spend on anything they wanted in the store. Old Navy also provided ice cream and other treats, creating a festive event for these lucky teens.

Old Navy is an affiliate of Gap, Inc., a longstanding partner of Boys & Girls Clubs of America. The Gap Foundation supports the Clubs in a variety of ways, including the creation of CareerLaunch, a career preparation program that provides a full range of career exploration and job skills experiences for teens. One component of CareerLaunch is "Camp Old Navy," a job-shadowing program hosted by more than 100 Old Navy stores across the U.S. and Canada. Thousands of teens have participated in the program, working alongside sales associates to gain insight into the world of retail.



Extreme Makeover: Meyer Club Edition

Thanks to the tremendous leadership and support provided by the Ann & Bill Swindells Charitable Trust, the Estate of Thomas G. Elliott and the Spirit Mountain Community Fund, the Meyer Boys & Girls Club and the adjoining administrative offices received a much-needed renovation this summer.

2,300 square feet were added to the Meyer Club, including a fully equipped Fitness Center and a brand new Performing Arts Center. The administrative offices received updates to the Professional Training Center, which now offers the space and technology needed to host state-wide Boys & Girls Club professional staff trainings.

Prior to the renovation, the Meyer Club did not have enough space designated for programs targeted to teen members. The new spaces provide teens with an environment to hang out with their friends, work toward their fitness goals, and build leadership skills as they teach pre-teen Club members how to safely use the fitness equipment.

Since the beginning of the program year in September, the Meyer Club has already experienced an increase in Club members age fifteen and older. This means fewer teens in our community who are left alone after school, unsupervised and vulnerable to making negative choices. Teens and younger kids alike are already benefiting from the new fitness and arts activities, developing new skills and building new friendships.



From left: CEO, Joe Marziello; Boys & Girls Club Trustee, Chuck McClellan; Meyer Club members; Estate of Thomas G. Elliott Trustee, Dale Deharpport; CEO, Lisabeth Marziello

Just One Gift can Impact a Child's Life

It truly takes just one caring adult to make a difference in the life of a child. There is no better time to support your Boys & Girls Clubs through a tax-deductible gift to the annual **It Just Takes One** campaign.

For a cost to families of just \$5.00 a year, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland bring hope and opportunity to more than 20,000 youth in the metro area.



Leslie Ganz
Campaign Chair

Every day the Clubs provide for children's basic needs and guide their development into productive and responsible citizens. We serve healthy snacks and meals to more than 1,000 kids. We provide homework and literacy help to kids who have no one to help them at home. We encourage children to set positive goals and do everything in our power to help them reach their goals.

With an uncertain economic road ahead, **we need your help** to support the increasing number of families who turn to their Clubs for crucially needed services.

To make your gift, please use the pledge card below, or visit www.bgcpportland.org.

Your support will help a child today!

Yes, I will support the **It Just Takes One** campaign to make a difference in the life of a child today!

___ Circle of Kids (\$2,500 or more) \$ _____
 ___ Pacesetter (\$1,500 - \$2,499) \$ _____
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SUMMER SNAPSHOTS

A Fun-Filled Season at the Regence Club

Kids at the Regence Boys & Girls Club, located in the New Columbia neighborhood in North Portland, enjoyed a fun and productive summer full of new friends and new experiences. Here are some of the highlights:



WEDNESDAY FIELD TRIPS - Every week, for a fee of only \$10 per child, Club kids had an opportunity to visit an amazing new location. Vans full of Regence Club members travelled to destinations throughout Portland and the surrounding area, including: Multnomah Falls, Sauvie Island, Fort Vancouver, OMSI, Enchanted Forest, PGE Park, Portland Art Museum, Mt. St. Helens, and the Coast.

LITTLE KID DANCE - Teen Club members organized a dance for younger members ages six to twelve. Teens participating in DJ classes at the University Park Community Center provided the music, helping to turn the Club Teen Room into a dance hall. The event raised funds for the Club through a \$2 admission fee and drinks and snacks sold through the Teen Snack Shack.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT - On a Tuesday night in August, the New Columbia neighborhood celebrated National Night Out with live music, food and drinks, face painting, henna tattoos, and informational booths on health issues and community resources. The Regence Club provided snacks and drinks, and helped with setup, supervision and cleanup. The event drew over 1,000 community members to McCoy Park, and introduced new kids to the Club.



REGENCE CARNIVAL - 60 volunteers from Regence Blue Cross Blue Shield brought an amazing carnival to the Club, using all available space in the kitchen, games room, music room, and playground. Club kids enjoyed a bouncy house, balloon hats, snacks, and a wide variety of carnival games and prizes for every child. Informational tables also provided Club members with tips for making healthy choices and living well.



MY STORY - My Story is a Portland-based nonprofit that encourages youth to explore and represent their community through traditional film photography. The organization came to the Club in August for a summer camp focused on communication, digital media and arts skills. To view a slide show of the kids' unique and inspiring projects, visit mystoryworkshops.org/news, and click on the August 2009 archived edition.



GARDEN CLUB - In partnership with Village Garden and JANUS Youth Program, members of the Regence Garden Club learned about agriculture as they worked in the Seeds of Harmony Community Garden in New Columbia. Neighborhood families can sign up for a plot in the garden, which provides a wide variety of organically-grown foods. Club kids helped plant, water and weed the crops which included tomatoes, cucumbers, pumpkins, watermelon, potatoes, carrots, peppers, and sunflowers.

Please Welcome Our Newest Board Members!

ERIN HUBERT is Vice President/General Manager at Entercom Radio. She is a graduate of the Portland State University School of Business, and spent 12 years as an executive with the Portland Trail Blazers before returning to a career in media. Erin is very active with community organizations, and currently serves on the boards of Citizens Crime Commission, Oregon Partnership, and the Oregon Sports Authority. Erin lives in Lake Oswego with her husband, Stan, and two sons, Sam and Nick.



STEVE LUNDSTROM is Wells Fargo Bank's Vice President and Business Banking Manager for East Portland. Steve holds a B.A. from Oregon State University, M.B.A. from the University of Oregon, and has more than 32 years of experience in the Oregon and SW Washington banking industry. Steve is actively involved with the Ronald McDonald House Charities and with the Optimist Club of Beaverton. His interests also include travel, golf, fishing, and bowling.



JOE HUGHES is founder and President of Joseph Hughes Construction, a Portland-based company doing business in Oregon, Washington and Idaho since 1981. Joe is a native Oregonian, born in Astoria and raised in SW Portland. He is a graduate of Beaverton High School and Portland State University. Joe currently serves on the board of Innovative Housing Incorporated, and is a former board member of the Association of Builders and Contractors. Joe enjoys photography, antiques, performance and hot-rod cars and bikes, and travel. Joe lives in Portland with his wife Pat. They have six children, three dogs and three cats.



Shari's Launches New Program to Support Boys & Girls Clubs



Portland pie-lovers can now support their Boys & Girls Clubs while enjoying a delicious pie made with the freshest Northwest-grown fruit. Shari's has introduced reusable bags to be used for their famous pies. For every pie purchased and taken home in the sustainable tote bags, Shari's will donate \$.25 to the Clubs on behalf of each customer.

As a longstanding partner of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland, our friends at Shari's Restaurants have dedicated their time and resources on behalf of youth in the Portland community for more than 15 years.

The Shari's Grip-it 'N Rip-it Golf Classic, an annual event held in conjunction with the Clubs, has raised more than \$1.5 million dollars - an investment that has directly impacted thousands of young lives in the metro area. Shari's is also a longtime supporter of the Clubs' annual Showcase of Wine & Cheese, participating as an event sponsor, and selling event tickets at all Portland area Shari's locations.

"Shari's has a heritage of community involvement and caring," Shari's Senior VP of Menu Development Kevin Bechtel said, adding, "We've added a sustainable twist with the donation to the Boys & Girls Club every time a customer takes home one of our pies, from our gourmet cream pies to all local Northwest grown fruit pies, in a reusable bag."

Stop by your neighborhood Shari's to pick up your free pie bag! Pies can be ordered online for in-store pickup. The Shari's website also offers the option to sign up for automatic email reminders so you never forget to bring in your Pie Bag to support your local Club.

DID YOU KNOW?

A Columbia University study revealed that Boys & Girls Clubs have a significant impact on increasing parental involvement, decreasing drug use and vandalism, and improving school attendance and academic performance.

States spend an average of \$240 per day for each young person locked in a juvenile detention facility. For approximately \$10 per day, Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland provides structured activities to help kids make positive choices.

Portland Police Help Kids Gear Up for School



September 2nd at the Johnson Creek Fred Meyer store was an exciting day for 110 kids who were treated to a back to school shopping excursion thanks to the Portland Police Bureau.

The Bureau's 7th annual Shop with a Cop event was a tremendous success, with 57 cops volunteering their morning to help the kids select new school clothes and classroom supplies. Kids were selected from the Boys & Girls Clubs, and the Rose Community Development affordable housing program. They were chosen because they and their families had helped with volunteer projects in their communities.

Over the past seven years, Shop with a Cop has provided nearly \$200,000 worth of school supplies and clothing to more than 700 kids. Funding for the event is secured from a variety of sources each year, including: Portland Police Association; Rose Community Development; Portland Chief of Police Office; and the Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) program. Fred Meyer also donates cash for the event, in addition to backpacks full of school supplies and major in-store discounts on shopping day.



While all the children greatly enjoyed picking out new clothes, shoes and supplies, the true highlights of the event were the relationships formed between the police volunteers and the kids they accompanied. These outstanding community leaders gave more than just their time. The extra attention and warmth they offered changed many kids' perspective on law enforcement, showing them that men and women in uniform are caring adults who kids can turn to in times of need.

Ken O'Neil, Our Champion for Kids!



Ken O'Neil joined our Board of Governors in 1982. After serving as Vice President in 1985, he served as President from 1987-1988. For nearly 30 years, Ken has been a very active member of numerous Board committees, and has played a vital role in providing life-saving services to tens of thousands of children in the Portland community. Throughout his time on the Board, Ken has been instrumental in raising over \$15,000,000 for the organization and has secured over \$1,000,000 of in-kind services for the Clubs. For his tireless efforts and outstanding contributions, Ken has received numerous awards including the Man & Youth Award, President's Award, and Board Member of the Year. At the upcoming annual Winemaker's Private Reserve Dinner, on February 11th, 2010, we will honor and pay tribute to Ken for his tremendous leadership and countless contributions he has made to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland. On behalf of more than 20,000 Boys & Girls Club kids, thank you Ken for your unwavering dedication to improving the lives of the young people who need you most!



Ken O'Neil's
MVP
Corner
Guest Columnists
Joe & Lisabeth Marziello

New Partnerships Help Literacy Program Expand

September 2009 marked an important occasion for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland—the expansion of Literacy Centers to each of the six Clubs located throughout the Portland metro area. Centers have been operating at the Meyer and Regence Clubs since 2006. Due to the success of these efforts, the Clubs have been working to open the program to kids at all Club locations.

Preparation for the expansion began in early 2009 with seven staff members completing an intensive six-week training to become certified in the Slingerland Multisensory Approach. Since 1960, thousands of teachers throughout the United States, Canada, Australia, and the Philippines have received Slingerland training, learning proven techniques to help dyslexic students and other struggling readers. The six Literacy Centers currently serve more than 800 youth.

The expansion of the literacy program would not be possible without the support, leadership and investment of key partners, such as the two outstanding organizations below:

Quest Foundation, (Danville, CA): The foundation recently awarded a significant grant for the purchase and implementation of 49 new computer workstations, and a comprehensive reading, writing and learning software solution for struggling readers, including individuals with learning differences such as dyslexia.

iStation, (Richardson, TX): iStation has partnered with Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland to make their iStation Reading program available to all youth participating in our Literacy Centers. iStation is an online curriculum that provides individualized assessment and instruction to youth from Pre-K to Grade 5. The highly interactive content engages students and motivates them to achieve reading progress.



With these and many other community partners committed to increasing literacy among Portland youth, the Clubs are more dedicated than ever to ensuring that our kids will not be educationally left behind due to struggles with dyslexia and other learning differences.

Already, our work is making a profound impact. Take Liam, a 14 year-old member who has participated in the literacy program for the past four years. Liam has seen his academic abilities turn around. "I used to get bad grades, but now I get As and Bs," he says. "I even help kids at the Club do their homework." According to Liam's mother, the literacy program has done more than improve his grades: "He is an entirely different kid now. If you had asked me four years ago if I thought Liam was going to make it through high school and beyond, I would have been unsure. The whole world is now open to him."

Children's Levy Renews Funds for Portland Boys & Girls Clubs



The Portland Children's Levy, first approved by Portland voters in 2002 and renewed in 2008, will continue to fund the Clubs' Youth & Family Services (YFS) program for an additional three years.

YFS programs identify kids most at risk of experiencing negative life outcomes and provide them with one-on-one case management, counseling, and family intervention to help them overcome difficult circumstances. The Levy has funded Youth & Family Services programs at the Portland Boys & Girls Clubs for the past five years, enabling the Clubs to provide individualized support for hundreds of children.

The Children's Levy invests more than \$12 million per year in organizations that help at-risk children through early childhood and afterschool programs, and programs targeted to child abuse prevention and foster care.

Free Films at Regal Cinemas

Thanks to the Regal Family Film Festival and a grant from Regal Entertainment Group, kids at the Inukai Family Club enjoyed their favorite summer movies for free. Club members saw the Bee Movie, Alvin and the Chipmunks, Space Chimps, Madagascar 2, City of Ember, Evan Almighty and many other favorites. Through the generosity of Regal Entertainment, kids whose families are unable to afford seeing these films on the big screen were able to enjoy an amazing movie experience all summer long!

To make a donation online, visit www.bgcpportland.org today!

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