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Connecting

Connecting A Publication for the friends and alumni of The Boys & Girls Club of Meriden Volume 6, December, 2007

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Ashton Family Establishes \$200,000 Endowment at the Club from 401 K

The Ashton Family generously took advantage of a new law that allows people over 70 to donate from their IRA or Roth IRA to non-profit institutions to establish a \$200,000 endowment vehicle for the Club.

Phil and Jane Ashton have always been dedicated friends of the youth of Meriden through their work at the Boys & Girls Club and this year they established a \$200,000 gift that will continue their investment in our youth as long as there is a Boys & Girls Club of Meriden.



Phil & Jane Ashton review plans for Club Endowment through 401 K initiative.

Take Advantage of Federal Tax Law

Over the last two years the Ashtons took advantage of a federal tax law that enables anyone over 70 to donate up to \$100,000 per year from their IRA or Roth IRA to non-profit institutions such as the Club without paying the deferred income tax. Instead of taking the withdrawal required by the 401 K rules, Phil and Jane established the endowment which will generate income for the Club every year beginning in 2008 or 2009. The 401 K opportunity is scheduled to end on December 31, 2007.

“Phil and Jane have been outstanding friends of the Club for many years now and this is an illustration of their continued generosity and commitment to the boys and girls in Meriden especially the 3,000 members we serve,” said Don Maletto, Chief Executive Officer at the Club. “Phil, along with Eliot White chaired our building campaign in 1999 to raise \$2.3 million; he worked hard on our investment committee to consolidate and maximize our funds; and he has worked on the camp expansion - even painting the new pavilions, (one by himself,) at Camp CUNO. Dick Seethaler (Director of Resource Development) and I went out to the camp in the fall on a 90 degree day and there he was, up on a ladder staining the pavilion. If we ever try to recognize him for his efforts he lets me know in no uncertain terms that is not part of who he is. They are very generous people and self motivated philanthropists,” added Maletto.

Strong Believers in Endowment Vehicles

“Phil is a strong believer in the power of endowed funds and he has always been in the forefront of encouraging the establishment of endowments in this city through other charitable work,” added Resource Director Seethaler. “I think this may be one of the only, if not the only vehicle of this kind established in Meriden. When he came to us with this gift already established, it showed Jane and his strong belief in our mission and what we do everyday for the youth of

Continued from page 1, “Endowment”

our city,” added Seethaler (The following questions are from an interview with Phil Ashton.

Phil, why did you select the Club and why an endowment?

We established this fund because of our desires to help one of the most outstanding organizations we have come across in our community. The endowment is the best way to ensure a strong financial base so that when crisis arise or something unexpected happens you still insure that annual campaign funds

go to the general operating of the Club. Annual funds are critical to running the day to day operations at the Club. By keeping the endowment in the Community Foundation you leave the management of those funds up to professionals whose job it is to stay focused on positive growth and returns. The Club doesn't have the personnel or the expertise to do that on a daily basis.

It is structured to have the beneficiary receive a relatively constant income stream while some of the yearly income is returned to the endowment to continue its growth.

Do you have any advice for someone interested in exploring this kind of gift?

Step up to the plate! I will be glad to sit down and talk to anyone interested in establishing such a gift and tell them how to get it started!

Thanks Phil & Jane from all of us at the Boys & Girls Club!



A United Way Agency

Our Wish List:

- 1.) Snow blower for the club.
- 2.) Copy paper for printing.
- 3.) Arts & Crafts supplies (Call Dominc Pereyo 203-235-8185 for details)
- 4.) Gas leaf blower.
- 5.) New or relatively new computers for the computer center (Call the office 203-235-8185 for details)

Connecting

Connecting is a publication of The Boys and Girls Club of Meriden. It is sent to the friends of The Club including members families, alumni, Corporators, businesses, and anyone interested in our mission.

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Girls take a break from their SMART Girls Teen Summit with Catalina Pagan, Girls Program Director and Ilea Gonzales Program Assistant. (Story page 2)



21st Century Community Learning Center Literacy participants work on Science activity presented at the Club by the Children's Museum of West Hartford. The activity is one of a series of 10 activities brought to the Club by the Science Center during the year.



Continued on page 3, “Endowment”



Club members who attended the Latino CT Leadership share a moment with Mirabelle Sanchez UCONN Cooperative Upward Bound Program Coordinator. From left to right: Nydia Duran, staff member Ilea Gonzales, Analiz Hernandez, Cristal Caban, Club Program Director Catalina Pagan & Lilliana Kendrick

Members Attend Latino CT Leadership Conference

The Boys and Girls Club of Meriden College Education Program took four Hispanic Middle School Teenagers to Gateway Community College in North Haven for a Latino Connecticut Leadership Conference. This day was designed to inspire Latino teens to consider higher education. The teenagers learned about financial Aid, applying for SAT testing, and developing a good transcript for the admission office. This was a first time for the members to participate in this great experience and have the opportunity to understand the importance of achievement and higher education. Catalina Pagan, Girls Program Director at Boys and Girls Club of Meriden coordinated the trip. "My mission is to teach teens to advocate for themselves and learn how to strive for higher education", she said.

"It is important for Latino's to attend college for numerous reasons," added Catalina. "The Latino population is growing and will soon be the second largest ethnic population. Experiencing the School diversity is important because students will be introduced to other cultures and languages and that will lead to a sensitivity of the culture. Being bilingual can be a major advantage when it comes to many jobs in America today. If more Latinos attended college it will help breakdown stereotypes many that Latino culture may have."

Teen Summits Address Issues

The Boys and Girls Club of Meriden Teen Summit for Girls is part of the SMART Girls Program. It includes two sessions a year and small group activities that cover topics such as alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, sexuality and the importance of education.

SMART Moves introduces and develops skills to help teens make smart choices and pursue a healthy lifestyle. Adolescents girls come together for discussions and to support from one another every Tuesday and Thursday from 5:00pm thru 6:00pm. Catalina Pagan, Girls Program Director, is the coordinator. For more information about this important program contact the Boys and Girls Club of Meriden (203) 235-8185

Wilderness Fun



Members of the Boys and Girls Club of Meriden's Wilderness Program enjoyed a morning hike at Ragged Mountain Preserve. Members are learning about plant identification, animals and safe hiking practices. Pictured above are Danny C., David C., Tim B. and John D.

The program runs Saturday mornings. The group visits a different park each week and learns a variety of aspects about the environment they live in. For more information on this program or any of the Clubs other great programs visit our website www.bgcmeriden.org

Save the date: January 14th, 2008 - 5:00-7:00 Boys & Girls Club Night at the New Macdonalds on 533 S. Broad Street. A portion of every sale between 5:00 & 7:00PM will go to the Club. We also ask your support of Janaury 21, 2008 same times, same place for the Ronald MacDonald House in New Haven, an excellent worthy cause!

College Prep Enters 2nd Year

Catalina Pagan, the Girls Program Director, is leading a post-secondary education program for teens which is now in its second year. The program has expanded from ten enrolled students last year to twenty this year. The program goal is to empower students for positive future change in their school and community.

College Education Program prepares students the process of applying for college. It covers SAT prep Classes, Resume Building, and College Essays, setting 10 year goals, selecting a college or University, developing a good transcript, improving, how to do a research paper, how to present yourself, public speaking and financial aid.

As part of the program Club members have made visits to the University of Connecticut Storrs campus, Southern Connecticut State University, Eastern Connecticut State University, Western Connecticut State University, Hartford University, Sacred

Heart University, Central Connecticut State University, Quinnipiac University, Smith College, Mount Holyoke College, and Saint Joseph College. They attended an Open House for a day of guidance and support that explained the transition from secondary schools to colleges. They attended seminars that helped define the majors and minors that are offered and their importance to a careers well as the application and financial aid process, and a tour of the campus.

3 Year's of 21st Century Century Literacy

The Boys and Girls Club of Meriden in collaboration with John Barry Elementary School, The Meriden Public Library, and The Family Resource Center have started the 21st Century Community Literacy Program for the fourth straight year. The 21st Century Community Literacy Program is the only one of its kind housed in a Boys and Girls Clubs in Connecticut. The Program is proud to retain 25 members from last year's program and also pleased to welcome 28 new members into the program. The program goal is to implement high impact literacy activities intended to improve reading comprehension skills of identified John Barry students as well as help with homework, science enrichment and regular Club programming. Parents interested in the program can contact the Club at 203-235-8185.



Club & Target Partner for Reading Literacy



safe families and communities is a perfect match for our mission and they are a committed and generous partner."

Alison Carothers, Executive Team Leader at the Meriden Target Store recently presented Don Maletto, Executive Director at the Boys & Girls Club of Meriden a check for \$1,000.00 to be used in the Club's Literacy program. 60 children from John Barry School in Meriden are being served in the third year of the 21st Century Community Learning Center Literacy program at the Club. "We are grateful to Target for their support of this very important initiative," said Maletto. "Target's work to aid and inspire education, make the arts affordable, and foster

Grants Help Develop Financial Literacy

Thanks to grants from the Meriden Teachers Federal Credit Union and the Castle Bank through the parent organization, Naugatuck Savings Bank, the Club is providing a financial literacy program for its members though the use of the nationally recognized program Money Matters: Make it CountSM and materials produced by the Credit Union.

Designed for teens ages 13-18, Money Matters consists of fun, interactive activities and exercises on topics such as using a checking account, managing debt, saving for college and learning the basics of investing. The materials and sessions were piloted in 20 Boys & Girls Clubs locations in late 2003, then fine-tuned based on teen and facilitator feedback. Teens indicated



CEO Ed Hogan presents Credit Union grant award to Club Director Maletto and program Director Shawn Porter.

Continued next column, "FinancialLiteracy"

"FinancialLiteracy", Continued

that the program influenced them to be more careful and responsible with money, think differently and make smart choices, start a savings account and learn how to budget. All are important life skills

"We thank the Credit Union and Castle Ban/Naugatuck Savings for these grants to do something positive to develop a sense of the importance of being knowledgeable and make wise financial decisions in life," said CEO Don Maletto.

Staff member Shawn Porter will direct the program.

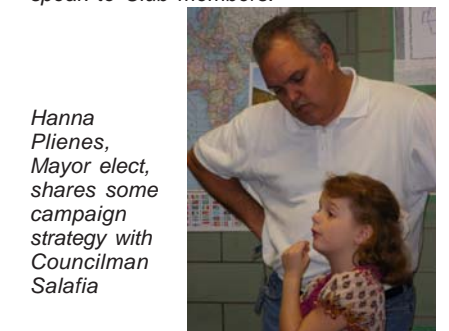
Club Elections Picture Gallery



Mayor Mark Benigni spoke to the Club election candidates. Here he poses with the office seekers.



Alumni member Mike Murdy addresses the candidates. Murdy and with Councilman /Alumni Member David Salafia reinstated the Club election process at the Club. Councilwoman Hilda Santiago (2nd from left) and Mayor Benigni (far right) came to support the process and speak to Club members.



Hanna Plienes, Mayor elect, shares some campaign strategy with Councilman Salafia