



Successes & Opportunities Spring 2005

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From the President & CEO



I just returned from Boys & Girls Clubs of America's Annual Conference. It was exciting and inspiring not only to see the terrific work going on in Clubs across America, but to see that we are truly part of a major national effort to help young people become productive and effective citizens. It was a powerful and moving experience for me, Jeff Jones and our Senior Staff who attended.

Next year, we will welcome the BGCA conference to Boston in celebration of the national organization's centennial. In 1906, Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston (BGCB), then the Charlestown Boys Club, was one of 53 clubs that met in Boston to create the Federated Boys' Clubs, which would become Boys & Girls Clubs of America. What a great opportunity next year's conference will be for BGCB, and we are already working on ideas to ensure that we take full advantage of it!

In the meantime, I am delighted to share news of some of BGCB's recent accomplishments and upcoming events. As we get ready to conclude another successful program year and begin summer camp sessions, it's evident that with your support, BGCB's innovative programs are making a real difference for local youth.

Linda Whitlock

Lights, Camera, Action ... Bronze Prize!



"Animated Artifacts," the animated film resulting from last year's wonderful Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) collaborative project with BGCB, was the Bronze prize winner in the youth competition at the Kalamazoo Animation Festival International (KAFI) 2005. Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston artists were showcased internationally when the film screened at the festival. For the film, each Club created a segment based on the MFA collections – Native American, Ancient Egyptians, Ancient Americas, Asia, and Africa. The festival takes place in Kalamazoo, Michigan, from May 13-15. Visit the BGCB web site at http://www.bgcb.org/gallery/animated_films.cfm to view the films. For more information on the film festival, visit <http://kafi.kvcc.edu>.

South Boston Club's Nicole Nazario, Age 11, Wins National Photography Contest

Congratulations to Nicole Nazario, one of thousands of youth who entered the BGCA ImageMakers National Photography Contest. Just 20, including 11-year-old Nicole, were selected as national winners. The competition, which encourages girls and boys ages 6-18 to learn and practice black and white, color and digital process photography, featured five categories and four age groups. In addition, Nicole was selected by BGCA as the official conference photographer at the National Conference just held in San Diego, where she had "shooting assignments." BGCA paid all expenses for Nicole and her proud mom to attend the conference.

YSPN Recognized for Best Practices in Teen Programming



Youth Service Providers Network (YSPN) was notified by The Boston Foundation that it received an honorable mention in the "Best Practice in Teen Programming Awards." Boston's After-School for All Partnership received over 75 nominations from innovative programs throughout Boston. The award process was unique in that it was driven by young people. A group of eight teens and four adults outlined four award categories, evaluated the entries and selected the awardees. YSPN received its recognition for "Strong Relationships with Caring Adults." Please join us to learn more about YSPN at *Summer in the City*, a benefit for YSPN, on June 14 at Bonfire. An invitation will be mailed next week.

BGCB Named Official Charity



The Head Of The Charles Charity Program recently granted BGCB status as one of five HOCHR Official Charities. Rowers – like our very own Gregg Stone – participating in the October 23, 2005 race can designate BGCB as the recipient of funds they raise. Since its inception in 1998, the Charity Program has generated more than \$500,000 for very worthy causes. The Charity Program is open to single scullers, doubles, fours and eights. Participants in the Charity Program will be recognized for their philanthropic efforts in the Official Regatta Program. For more information, call 617-868-6200 or email regatta@hocr.org.

Supporting BGCB – Priceless!



On March 31, nearly 400 guests enjoyed the 2005 Boston Art & Antiques Show Preview Party, a benefit for BGCB. Proceeds from all Show events surpassed \$500,000. An auction, which raised \$91,000, featured "priceless" items including package from the Boston Red Sox, New England Patriots and Boston Celtics, a Palm Beach Get-A-Way, and dinner for 10 prepared by Excelsior's Executive Chef Eric Brennan. Photo: the Event Co-Chairs (L to R): Peggy Henry, Anne Moran, Donna Pearson and Michele Kessler.

Not pictured: Honorary Co-Chairs Myra Kraft and Darlene Jordan.

Approximately 100 attended the Benefit Brunch the following morning to hear a fascinating lecture about jewelry, gems and appraisals by Susan Florence, Senior Vice President and Senior Jewelry Specialist for Christie's, North and South America. The Benefit Brunch was co-chaired by Gigi Gowdy, Patti Kraft, Elena Matlack and Simone Winston.

The money raised will help BGCB provide high-impact programs and services to nearly 12,000 youth in Boston and Chelsea served by Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston and its partnership programs with the Boston Public Schools and Boston Police Department.

Cyber Summit 2005, Sponsored by Verizon Foundation



BGCB's technology program enables youth to become "fluent in technology" so that they can use it to conceptualize and solve real-world problems. More than 40 youth, ages 11 to 15, including members from all five BGCB Clubs, put this into practice when they participated in "Cyber Summit" on April 21 – 22. This event included hands-on projects in digital animation, web site design, robotics, digital music and film, game design and desktop publishing. Faced with intellectually demanding challenges, the youth worked in teams to create a product and the materials to market it.

Participants showcased the results for parents and community members at a "Cyber Fair" that concluded the two-day event.

The emphasis on technology education and access is a part of BGCB's comprehensive approach to youth development. During Cyber Summit, adult mentors and teen coaches (some of them from MIT's Media Lab, Harvard's School of Education, the Intel Computer Clubhouse Network, and Boston-area companies) facilitated workshops and helped participants push their creativity to new levels and develop their business skills. The young entrepreneurs used professional software such as Adobe Photoshop and Macromedia Dreamweaver.

BGCB Hosted Legislative Breakfast



BGCB hosted a roundtable discussion on how youth-serving organizations and legislators can work together to meet the needs of children and teens in Boston and Chelsea. The goal was to have an open, results-oriented conversation that will lead to increased collaboration and a stronger, more effective partnership on behalf of the youth of Boston and Chelsea.

BGCB has a long history of collaborative community-based partnerships that result in innovative programming and increased capacity to serve the changing needs of communities. However, youth – especially teens – are facing greater challenges than ever before and we must find new, creative ways to engage them in positive activities.

The roundtable discussion, with a small group of local legislators and key BGCB staff and Board members, covered several areas of BGCB programming, including:

- youth crime and violence prevention
- education/MCAS support
- health and wellness programs

Roxbury Club Member Tells about Club trip to Japan in T.i.P. Newspaper Article



Nancy July-Flores, age 16, along with nine other teen members of Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston's Roxbury Club, participated in a 10-day Japan trip in February, made possible through the generosity of the Fish Family Foundation. The teens who went on the trip studied Japanese language and culture at the Club for one year and were required to maintain their good grades in school. Nancy published a story about their journey in T.i.P. (Boston Teens in Print), a newspaper by and for teens in Boston's public high schools,

published through a collaboration between WriteBoston and *The Boston Globe*. She wrote about the group's visit to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum: "The more I read, and thought, the more I began to cry, right there in the museum... I knew that I had changed that day for the better." *Photo: Staff members Greg Stoddard and Anita Sutton pose with Club members outside Kinkakuji Temple in Kyoto, a functioning Zen Buddhist Temple covered in gold leaf.*

Roxbury Club Hosts Israel at Heart



The non-profit "Israel at Heart" Program brings articulate and compelling Israeli students, in groups of three, to college campuses and other organizations, to tell their stories and connect with audiences, both Jewish and non-Jewish. These students come from various countries of origin and levels of religious observance, and they speak from their heart about what life is really like in Israel. Among them are Ethiopian Jews, who felt oppressed under the Mengistu Communist dictatorship in Ethiopia, and were airlifted to Israel in a massive evacuation that took place in the mid-'80s, resulting in an Ethiopian

community in Israel. *Photo: Roxbury Club staff, members and "Israel at Heart Program" students.*

Speaker Series Bring Local Leaders Together to Raise Essential Funds for Jordan Club



The 2005 Breakfast Club began February 8, 2005 with featured speaker Governor Mitt Romney, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, who spoke about education. On March 22, Glen Ordway, WEEI's The Big Show was featured. At seven meetings throughout the year, a guest speaker addresses the group on a topic of his or her choice for 15 to 20 minutes, followed by a 15-minute Q&A session. Speakers have included Peter Lynch, Chad Gifford, Doris Kearns Goodwin, Kevin White, John Silber, Michael Capuano, Michael Dukakis, John Dennis, and Robert Kraft (with the 2003 Lombardi Trophy from the Super Bowl).

South Boston Teen Named BGCB's Youth of the Year



Congratulations to Ryan Kelly, an outstanding young man who has been named Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston's 2005 Youth of the Year.

Ryan has been a member of the South Boston Club for more than 12 years, during which he has demonstrated leadership, maturity and excellence in academics and sports. His community involvement ranges from organizing can drives at the St. Augustine Food Pantry to participating in the Save the Harbor Save the Bay annual event. He is a junior staff person at the Club, helping younger members with their homework, and has served on the President's Youth

Council for the past two years. Ryan told his compelling personal story as one of the featured speakers at BGCB's February 2005 Partners for Youth Dinner. A high school senior, Ryan plans to major in psychology at Bridgewater State University in the fall. His goal is to become an adolescent clinical psychologist, so that he can help young children and teens who are going through a difficult time.

Congratulations to our impressive local Youth of the Year winners!

- William G. Buckley – Charlestown Club
- Alicia Orellana – Jordan Club, Chelsea
- Dominique L. Radden – Blue Hill Club
- Shirley Bien-Aime – Roxbury Club

Our sincere thanks to our Youth of the Year judges for their time and hard work:

- Ruthanne Fuller, member, BGCB Board of Directors
- Dishon Mills, After School Programs Coordinator, Boston Public Schools
- Charles Grace, attorney, Mintz Levin

BGCB celebrated the accomplishments of all teen Club members, and presented awards for outstanding commitment, leadership and service at the Teen Recognition Dinner on May 11 at Sheraton Boston Hotel & Towers.

Visit us on the web at www.bgcb.org for up-to-date details about any of the following events.

SAVE THE DATE!

AGENCY EVENTS – for more information, contact Renee Besser at 617-994-4782 or rbesser@bgcb.org, or Holly Fugiel at 617-994-4708 or hfugiel@bgcb.org

Final 2005 Club Tour

Date: June 16

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Location: Blue Hill Club
15 Talbot Avenue, Dorchester

Summer in the City: A Benefit for YSPN

Date: June 14

Time: 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Location: Bonfire
Park Plaza Hotel
64 Arlington Street, Boston

Friends of BGCB Fundraiser

Date: June 21

Time: 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Location: Sel de la Terre
255 State Street, Boston

CLUB EVENTS – for more information, contact Jaline Quinto at 617-994-4722 or jquinto@bgcb.org

Annual Golf Tournament, sponsored by Forest City Commercial Group, Charlestown

Date: May 27

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Father's Day Luncheon, Roxbury

Date: June 11

Time: Noon

Battle of Bunker Hill Road Race, sponsored by the Raymond Family Foundation, Charlestown

Date: June 12

Welcome Home Alumni Night 2005, Roxbury

Date: June 17

Time: 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.