

Focus on Youth



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF BOSTON**

Volume 1 | Number 2 | July 2007

In This Issue

BGCB extends operations to keep youth safe

Blue Angels Commander inducted into alumni Hall of Fame

Comprehensive Campaign enters home stretch

Camp Harbor View offers oasis for at-risk youth

Nicole Callahan named BGCB Youth of the Year

YSPN facilitates "Steps to Success" group

Inspired, volunteer secures grant for college tour



The Mission of BGCB

is to help boys and girls develop the qualities needed to become responsible citizens and leaders. To achieve this, we offer a variety of program activities and support service designed to assist in the educational, emotional, physical and social development of 6 to 18-year-olds, without regard to social, racial, ethnic, or religious background.

BGCB extends operations to keep youth safe



BGCB has extended our operations this summer in response to community need, allowing teens to stay at our Clubs until 11:00 p.m. or midnight on Friday and Saturday. With the start of the school year, late night and weekend hours will be standard practice at all BGCB Clubs.

Teens at the Blue Hill Club can participate in "Understanding Violence," a curriculum to help them deal with the loss of friends and their own sense of fear at becoming a victim of violence. The Club is partnering with Suffolk County Sheriff's Dept., Suffolk County DA's office, Boston Police District B3, and the Boston Center for Youth & Families to bring this important program to at-risk youth. On Saturdays at our Yawkey Club of Roxbury, neighborhood youth are getting off the streets and into positive activities, including step dance, karate and African drumming.

Blue Angels Commander inducted into alumni Hall of Fame

Steve Foley, Commander of the Blue Angels flight demonstration team and an alumnus of BGCB's Charlestown Club, was one of eight distinguished Club alumni recently inducted into Boys & Girls Clubs of America's Alumni Hall of Fame, which recognizes former Club members who have made major contributions to their respective fields, from sports to entertainment to business.



Actor Courtney B. Vance inducts Cmdr. Foley into Hall of Fame.

As a Navy pilot with thousands of flight hours, hundreds of carrier landings and a solid record of excellence, Foley was named commander of the Blue Angels in 2004. He has traveled the world, but has never forgotten his beginnings at the Charlestown Club, where he learned his first lessons about teamwork, leadership and goal-setting, and learned to swim. Foley has flown missions in support of Operation Desert Shield and Operation Enduring Freedom; his decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, and four Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals. He continues to inspire young people across the country and around the world to soar high and achieve their goals.



Comprehensive Campaign enters home stretch

July 1 marked the start of the final year of our Comprehensive Campaign to raise \$100 million. With \$10 million left to raise by June 2008, the Campaign has already made possible the renovation and expansion of our Yawkey Club of Roxbury and our Blue Hill Club in Dorchester. As a result, we can serve 500 additional youth. The Campaign also seeks to raise funds for core programming and an endowment, both of which will ensure that we can keep our Clubs and programs accessible and affordable for families in need.

BGCB is honored to have received a \$1 million challenge grant from The Kresge Foundation that allows us to leverage support for our Campaign as we work to reach our ambitious goal. BGCB will receive the gift if we raise a total of \$4.2 million towards our endowment and facilities goals (\$3.1 for endowment, \$1.1 for facilities) by June 2008. For information about how you can help us meet this challenge, contact Kathy Sheehan, VP, Development, at: 617-994-4712.



Save The Date

Visit us on the web at www.bgcb.org/events for details about this and other upcoming events:

See You in September, A Benefit for YSPN

Date: September 24, 2007
Location: Bonfire Restaurant
Time: TBA



Focus on Youth is a quarterly newsletter of Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston (BGCB). Please visit us on the web at www.bgcb.org.



Camp Harbor View offers oasis for at-risk youth

Camp Harbor View, a summer day camp on Long Island in Boston Harbor, opened July 2 with 300 campers – boys and girls ages 11 to 14 – from across the city. The campers, who were selected based on need, pay \$5 for a four-week session that includes three meals daily (provided by City Fresh) and round trip transportation. The camp was conceived by Mayor Thomas M. Menino and long-time BGCB

Director and businessman Jack Connors, and built by Suffolk Construction, under the leadership of CEO John Fish. BGCB operates the camp with a full-time staff of 45 and 24 junior counselors, as well as an experienced, licensed social worker and a healthcare professional. There are two four-week sessions, each with 300 campers. Activities focus on four core areas: developing leadership skills, environmental education, sports & fitness activities, and fostering creative expression through the arts, and feature tennis, basketball, nature walks, field trips, exploration of the marine environment, a ropes course and aquatics. Programs are supported by a dozen generous partners.

Nicole Callahan named BGCB Youth of the Year

For Nicole Callahan, the Charlestown Club has been like a second home. Raised by a single mother who worked two jobs to support her family, Nicole learned to value the things that most teens take for granted. She recently was named Youth of the Year across BGCB's network of Clubs. The Youth of the Year program recognizes outstanding Club members for their superior leadership skills, academic achievement, ability to overcome obstacles, and service to their Club and community. She placed in the top three at the Massachusetts state Youth of the Year competition.

Nicole is part of the Club's Community Action Group, College Club, and the Junior Staff. She graduated in the top 10% of her class at Boston Latin Academy and will be the first in her family to go to college. She will attend George Washington University where she wants to major in finance and become a stockbroker or real estate developer.



BGCB Youth of the Year Nicole Callahan

YSPN facilitates eight-week "Steps to Success" group

Beginning this month, district-based social workers, Charlene Luma and Sara Brown, will lead "Steps to Success," a group for YSPN clients, ages 15-17, that will explore the social and life skills teens need to make a successful transition into adulthood. The group will serve as a forum for teens to develop skills in the areas of conflict resolution, substance abuse prevention, leadership development, job-readiness, professional relationships in the workplace, money management, safety planning, and decision-making. A grant from the Grand Circle Foundation will fund this YSPN initiative.

At-risk youth are deeply affected by violence in their neighborhoods, and often believe that they have no options. "Steps to Success" will provide these youth with a rare opportunity to talk about important issues with their peers in a supportive and safe environment, and to develop a sense of hope for the future. Through their participation, teens will further develop their personal identity and goals, and become stronger, more positive members of their communities.

Inspired, volunteer secures grant for annual college tour

Helping teens prepare for college is a top priority in our Clubs' teen centers. Many of our members are without family members who can guide them through this often complicated process. Our recent college tour, planned and staffed by the Club Education Directors, brought members from the Blue Hill, Jordan, and South Boston Clubs to six colleges in New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Washington, D.C., and to the Sallie Mae Headquarters for a financial aid workshop. It was Gina Tarantino, a four-year Blue Hill Club volunteer and Sallie Mae employee, who helped make the tour possible by securing partial funding through a Sallie Mae Fund grant.

Gina spends two hours a week at the Club, providing homework help in the education center and assisting with girls group activities. "These kids deserve all that we can do for them," she says. "I've always felt strongly about community and giving back. Volunteering at the Blue Hill Club has been a great experience." To volunteer, contact Leah Reich at Ireich@bgcb.org or visit our website.

