



# Boys & Girls Clubs of Binghamton

GREAT FUTURES START HERE

DECEMBER 2011

## Our First Playground!



"A majority of our soldiers live and work in the local community," said Sergeant Jim Zemanick. "It's a great opportunity for us to give back."

We received a sizeable grant from the Conrad and Virginia Klee Foundation to build a playground at the Club, and, over three days this summer, the National Guard's 204<sup>th</sup> Engineering Battalion constructed the playground for our local youth.



The Club saved thousands of dollars thanks to the skill and generosity of the National Guard. During our annual dinner in October, we presented Sergeant Zemanick with an appreciation award for the Guard's phenomenal work on the construction of the playground in our new outdoor play space.



### Bids for Kids 2011

On December 1, we held our 19<sup>th</sup> annual Bids for Kids live and silent auction at the Riverwalk Hotel. Over 100 silent auction items and 23 live auction items went home with the highest bidder. A one-week stay in Keystone, Colorado, brought in the largest winning bid at \$1,350. The auction raised over \$24,000 for our Club programming.

Our deepest thank you to all of the individuals, businesses and organizations who gave so generously in time, materials, and contributions.



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF BINGHAMTON

## Marybeth Smith

### Executive Director

This year we celebrated several exciting achievements, which you'll learn about throughout this newsletter. We also welcomed six new board members, including Santo Caracciolo, Tom Jackson, Patrick May, Dr. Samuel Pejo, Jerome Scott, and Father Corey Van Kuren.

In addition to generous donations from businesses in our community, we received thousands of dollars in grants from foundations like AT&T, Charles Schwab, Conrad and Virginia Klee, M&T, Newman's Own, and Taco Bell, as well as grants from local companies and organizations, including Binghamton Sertoma Club, Broome County Arts Council United Cultural Fund, HSBC, and United Way.

Through a grant from the Taco Bell Foundation for Teens, our members attended eight college preparation workshops, heard from six guest speakers about college admissions and campus life, and attended six college tours to SUNY Binghamton, Broome Community College, SUNY Cortland, Hartwick College, SUNY Oneonta, and Syracuse University.



A grant from the Broome County Arts Council United Cultural Fund enabled us to offer our members a six-week drama program, led by a professional actor and director, that culminated in a Community Arts Carnival hosted by the Club.

We had the largest audience since the drama program's inception six years ago, and our partnership with Binghamton University enhanced the

carnival, as over 10 student groups provided entertainment for the event ranging from singing and acrobatics to puppet making and mini golf.



In November we celebrated Thanksgiving at the Club with a dinner attended by 225 youth members, and later this month we'll receive a visit from Santa at our annual holiday party for the kids.

Our Club has had a wonderful year, and we're looking forward to offering more enriching programming in 2012.

Best wishes for a Happy New Year!

## Charles Woody

### Board President

Just as the school year is well underway, so too is our programming at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Binghamton. And, while our memberships and aspirations continue to rise, our costs are also increasing.

Please consider demonstrating your support of our mission – to inspire and enable all young people to reach their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible citizens – by contributing to our Sustaining Membership Campaign held from November 10 to February 10.

During this 90-day campaign, we want to challenge our community to BE GREAT and pledge their financial support for the future of our local youth.

Over 70 percent of the boys and girls we serve live in poverty. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Binghamton not only provides a hot meal every evening but also educational and recreational programming unparalleled in our community.

Your generosity delivers crucial operating support and ensures our kids a safe place to go after school, caring role models, and opportunities that redirect the course of their lives. Our local kids are striving to succeed, and they count on the help of individuals like *you* to make their Club experience possible every day.

## Terry Cortese Green

### Foundation Executive Director

Greetings from the Binghamton Boys and Girls Club Foundation!

The year 2011 has brought some changes to the Foundation. First, we all wished Executive Director, Roger Hartman, the best as he retired from the position he served so well for many years. Secondly, the Board of Trustees welcomed Terry Cortese Green as the new Foundation Executive Director.

And, finally, for the past several years the Foundation has concentrated its efforts on assisting the Club with its Capital Campaign. It was a monumental undertaking, however, one well worth the effort, as evidenced by the outcome of the state of the art facility located on Clinton Street. The new building will serve generations of young people for years to come.



Now the Foundation must concentrate its efforts and fundraising on the growth of its endowment. Through its endowment, the Foundation functions as a source of funding to insure that the Boys and Girls Club of Binghamton is able to fulfill its valuable mission.

We hope that you'll consider contributing to the Foundation so that we can continue to serve the Club.

## CLUB NEWS



### Executive Director Receives Honor

Our Executive Director, Marybeth Smith, was named Sertoman of the Year by the Binghamton Sertoma Club for her outstanding service to the community, and she went on to also win Sertoman of the Year for the district. Marybeth was joined at the recognition dinner by two of our members, Jordon Green and Kayla Fernandez, who read their award-winning essays on the importance of nutrition and the value of our evening meal program, held daily at the Club.

### \$15,000 Grant Award

Our affiliate Binghamton University student organization, Boys & Girls Club Mentors, in partnership with the Club, received 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Newman's Own Foundation Campus Community Service Challenge and received a \$15,000 grant award to expand our partnership and provide programming that fosters the practice of philanthropy in our youth members.



### 58<sup>th</sup> Year at Camp Sertoma

We had nearly 400 campers attend this summer and participate in activities like horseback riding, pictured here. Camp Sertoma is located on 110 acres of beautiful woodland in nearby Kirkwood.

#### Did you know?

We have nine in-school satellite programs called "Fun Clubs," located throughout elementary schools in the local school districts.



## CLUB MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### Takeen Powell Youth of the Year 2011



Takeen Powell, right, with fellow Club members at our annual dinner in October.

**Years at the Club:** 10

**School:** Sophomore, BHS

**Favorite Subject:** Social Studies

**Career Interest:** Forensics

**Favorite Activities at the Club:**

Computers (I don't have access to a computer at home) and the gym

**When I think back on my years at the Club:** I think about how the Club has been a positive habit throughout my life. I think about how many times I've woken up in the morning for the Club, excited to go to the Club, not being able to wait until I could get to the Club.

#### Did you know?

Our BU student group, Boys & Girls Club Mentors, was chartered in spring 2008 and has since logged over 20,000 volunteer hours with the Club.



### HART of BC Sculpture Now at the Club

We're proud to welcome to our Club one of the 22 Gronk dinosculptures (complete with B.C., the caveman!) to our Club. Decorated by local artists and sponsored by businesses, the sculptures pay tribute to the late cartoonist and former area resident Johnny Hart. After being displayed in downtown Binghamton in 2010, most of the sculptures were auctioned off this February, and we received \$3,000 in proceeds plus our own sculpture last month.

#### Did you know?

In 1974, Binghamton created the first combined Boys AND Girls Club in the United States.

## Board of Directors

Nick Brewster  
Kay Brundza  
Santo Caracciolo  
Joan Clow  
Robert Connelly  
Marcy Depew  
James Gleason  
Phil Hampton  
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Buzz Korchak  
Lillian Levy  
Joseph Mahon  
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**Jim Conklin – Vice President**  
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Glenn Small  
Edward Stack  
Gordon Thompson  
Father Corey Van Kuren  
Joyce Westgate  
Frank Whitney, Jr.  
Randall Wimberly

### Want to make a donation to the Club?

#### Credit Card

Secure credit card donations may be made through the "donate now" icon on our website's homepage [www.boysandgirlsclubsbinghamton.org](http://www.boysandgirlsclubsbinghamton.org)

#### Check

Please make checks payable to: "Boys & Girls Clubs of Binghamton"

### Contact Us!

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