

OUR SUMMER CAMP ADVENTURE

by Ashley C. & Ashley E.



Friends, beaches, games, swimming, paper bagged lunches, and sun block... Summer Camp has the word FUN splattered all over it! Boys & Girls Club of Greater Salem Summer Camp has many different themes and fun field trips. The camp was never stuck at the Club; every day the campers would be somewhere new.

The different themes of Summer Camp were: Sports Week, All American Week, Jungle Week, Beach Party Week, Holiday Week, Back to the Future Week, Olympic Week, Wild, Wild West Week and Wacky Water Week.

Campers were split up into different groups by age. Every week they would have a new group with different counselors and junior staff. Diversity in the camp helped many of the campers to get along and interact with kids they never knew. There were many ways to earn points as a group- winning games, listening to Camp Director Jodi, picking up litter at the parks, being the first group to be ready, being creative with songs and dances, wearing the right colors for the right themes, and catching sea animals like hermit crabs. At the end of each week, the group with the most points would win an ice cream sundae party. Everyone was really enthusiastic about winning so they tried their hardest to earn this special dessert.



Top: Campers act like flamingos to earn points at Stone Zoo
Left: BFFs Kayla, Samantha and Briana dressed as triplets for Twins Day
Bottom: Campers had fun celebrating Halloween in summer

Every week we would go to Forest River Park, Winter Island, Dane Street Beach, and the Salem State Pool. During Wacky Water Week, the biggest field trip of all was Canobie Lake Park.

Everyone enjoyed themselves and was soaked and exhausted by the end of the day. Some of the most fun specials to earn points included Twin Day, where you dress like one of your friends, Hat Day, Pajama Day and Stuffed Animal Day.

Holiday Week was a blast! Salem Boys & Girls Club went over to Nashua's Boys & Girls Club and spent the day there. There was a Summer Expo with many different kinds of carnival games like dunk tanks, moon bounces, hot dog eating contest, dance offs and other games to win prizes.



Casey has fun in the basketball court bounce house at Nashua's summer expo



Back to the Future Week was very hip. The Club went to a new water park called Liquid Planet. Many kids enjoyed it, having other camps there and playing on the slides and spray area all day. We had decade day, when everyone dressed any decade they wanted to dress as. Many of the kids dressed like the 80's and 60's. At the end of each day, the whole camp would get together in the gym and each staff would announce their camper of the day. Camper of the day is a certificate for being well-behaved, enthusiastic, generous and listening to directions. At the end of each week the staff would announce camper of the week which was quite the honor.

During All-American week, the Club went to Harold Parker. Harold Parker is a state park in Andover. Kids played many games like volleyball, football, kickball, etc. There is also a pond that many kids went swimming in. It was very warm and clean. Campers went on a nature walk around the big park; some kids saw snakes and other animal along the way.

The field trip to Castle Island was during Jungle Week. There was a beach, playground and a large castle. Kids went swimming and played at the playground. It was a hot day so the staff also went swimming which is the kids' favorite time. That week we also went to Stone Zoo. The kids saw many different kinds of animals and learned about them. There were stands that had facts about the animals where we learned what they eat, their habitats and about their families. There was

also a bird show; one of the birds flew on one of our junior staff, Brianna. Everyone was very entertained and laughed a lot.

On week four, Beach Party Week, the Club went to Wingersheek Beach. Campers went swimming, kids found clams, crabs, and shark teeth. Many groups won a lot of points, making the kids happy. Some campers got buried and buried others and made elaborate sand castles. The whole Club enjoyed themselves and came back dripping wet because of all the swimming. Some of our other favorite trips were Stagefort Park in Gloucester, Lynch Park in Beverly and the Salem Willows.

The campers loved "Dress Your Counselor Day" where they get to cover them with everything from streamers and beads to hats and sunglasses.

The Club gives out free lunch during Summer Camp. Some of the kids brought their lunch from home, but many had the Club lunch too. The kids were hydrated all day and had strong bones because the Club served milk. The different kinds of lunches were turkey, tuna, ham, bologna and cheese. There were snacks included in the lunch and fresh fruit everyday. The campers always went back for seconds.

Summer Camp is exiting and a great part of the summer. It is way more fun than the school year. Kids enjoy themselves all summer long without worrying about getting up early or doing homework. Summer Camp is all about having fun, making new friends and trying new things.

For some of the first year campers, it was truly an adventure. For all, it was a summer to remember.

Right: Kendall helps teach Cameroon how to skate while at a field trip to Roller World
Below: Manny and Corey hang like monkeys at Winter Island playground



CHECK INSIDE FOR MORE COOL STUFF: Meet the new President (of the Club)... Word With Executive Director Joanne Scott... We Are The Champions... Q & A: What Do You Want to be When You Grow Up?... The Rewarding Life of a Junior Staff Member... Club Members Scare up Some Fun on Halloween... Club Members Carry the Torch... Floor Hockey and Teen Basketball Rule... The Club Comes to Peabody... AND MORE!

Dear Friends:

The new motto for Boys & Girls Clubs across America is “**BE GREAT.**” Two simple words filled with hope, happiness and a dash of work ethic.

“**BE GREAT**” means kids racing to our Club anxious to learn how to dance, how to get into college, or to find out if they won that month’s homework competition.

“**BE GREAT**” means a staff member greeting each child entering the game room by name and with enthusiasm.

“**BE GREAT**” means young adults feeling rooted in our community and ready to contribute.

Your support allows us to **BE GREAT** and to pass it on to our kids. After reading this newspaper, you may agree that you are investing in the future of at least one or two GREAT journalists!



Thank you and happy reading!

Sincerely,
Joanne Scott
Executive Director

P.S. For more information on the ‘**BE GREAT**’ campaign or about our programs, please visit our website at **BGCGS.ORG**.

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH THE PRESIDENT!
(Of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Salem) by Ryan & Jared



Boys & Girls Club of Greater Salem
President, Sumner Jones

For our first assignment, we interviewed Sumner Jones, President of the Board of Directors for the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Salem.

Sumner grew up in Salem, and his favorite part of the city is downtown Salem. As he grew up, he didn’t go to the Club very much but he did attend the YMCA. When he was younger he wanted to be a lawyer, but in reality he works for Eastern Bank in Boston. Sumner’s favorite part of his job is working with clients and meeting new people.

Growing up in Salem, his favorite memories were playing for the Salem Little League. He attended Salem High School. His most embarrassing moment was when he was going to go out on a date with a girl and he accidentally called the wrong girl. Sumner attended Boston University for college. Sumner has been the Club President from the beginning of this school year, and he already has big plans for the future.

As the President of the Board he doesn’t think he is the most important, he believes that everyone is as important as he is. One difficulty he faced was changing his schedule around so his time can be devoted to the Club. If he could change one thing about the Boys & Girls Club he would build a brand new facility, everything being bigger and better. His upcoming plans for future fundraising are the Annual Spring Gala and Wild Turkey Road Race. His upcoming plan for the Club is to expand the Board of Directors.

He knew a lot of people on the Board and they asked him if he would like to be the President of the Board because the spot was open so he decided to jump into the throne to be President. If he could be a Club member, he would have liked to be in the Basketball Program. His favorite quote is “We have met the enemy and he is us”. We asked him where did he get this quote from and he got it from a cartoon called Pogo. We asked Sumner what motivates him to volunteer at the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Salem and he said “The Club is an important place where important people can come”. He believes that the staff who provide the services for the Club members make the Club what it is today.

Fun Facts About Sumner Jones:

- Favorite Food: Coffee Ice Cream
- Favorite Places Visited: Europe, England, France, Abu Dhabi, Kuwait and Japan
- Favorite Sports to Play: Skiing and Baseball
- Favorite Sports to Watch: Football, Patriots of course!
- Favorite Music: 60s and 70s, pop and classical
- Personal Goal: To break 80 on a Full Size Golf Course
- Hobbies: Reading and Gardening

Thank You Community Partners!

Our mission to provide affordable, educational and FUN programming for kids could not be realized without the generous commitment of time and treasure by our Community Partners!

Thanks to the Salem VFW Highlifes and the Salem Ward II Lowlifes softball teams for designating the Boys & Girls Club as the recipient of tournament fundraiser proceeds.

Thank you to North Shore Magazine for designating the Club as the recipient of an event raffle.

Thank you New England Kayak & Fishing for donating funds to purchase new backboards and hoops for the basketball court.

The Club purchased \$100 in Art Supplies in memory of Lois Thomas. Lois and her husband were generous supporters of the Club, and sponsored our Golf Tournament for many years.

Thanks to free dental screenings from the Mass Dental Van and the generosity of Dr. Orfaly of Salem, our kids have something else to smile about!



Thanks to the coordination of board member Andrew Balter, employees of General Electric of Lynn volunteered a long afternoon at the Club, working on projects such as: replacing the mats behind the basketball hoops, replacing four hoops and backboards, painting, and assembly of our weight machine. GEE, Thanks GE!

Thank you to the students from Salem State College who generously donated their time to help us get the Club ready for a new school year.

Special thanks to Charlie Arnold from Winter Island and Cape Cod Chips for donating their time and products for the Halloween Parade.

Want to help? Email jscott@bgcgs.org.

GIVING THANKS

In the true spirit of the season, JM Family Enterprises and Monetrics contacted the Club about providing Thanksgiving dinner to families of Club members who may need a helping hand over the holidays. Thank you for your generosity and for giving us even more to be thankful for.



What’s the Word is a quarterly publication of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Salem, MA published 3x during the school year.
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GYM "RATS", NOT RATS AT ALL! Gym Council Gives Back to the Club by Aaron & Justin

Gym Council is a group of Boys & Girls Club of Greater Salem members who have met certain expectations. They have to do things that help the Club and themselves. We help the Club by recycling, helping little kids with their homework and working in the café. We help ourselves with some guidance by becoming better men. Some of the activities we do are dancing, proper weight lifting, and talking about sports and college.

Jonathan has been coming to the Club for seven years. He went to eight out of the nine weeks in the summer camp that the Club holds every year. He was one of ten kids selected to be in Gym Council. He believes that he was chosen for his good sportsmanship, being a role model and his enthusiasm. He enjoys talking about sports and playing all sorts of games in the gym. When we asked what games he liked to play in the gym he said "I like em' all!" He is involved in all the in-house gym leagues.



When asked which games Gym Council member Jonathan likes to play, he answered "I like em' all!"

Matt Carr, the Athletic Director of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Salem, is the host of Gym Council. He saw the 12 to 14 year old kids doing nothing during the day, so he brought the program to the Club. He wanted us to learn about healthy eating, how to act around girls, and to look forward to our future. He also wants us to be productive, civilized people when we grow up. Since Gym Council is an educational program like school, we earn field trips as a treat. Most of the field trips are to colleges and sports games so we start to think about our futures. The main goal is to see us grow up to be respectful young men, go to college, and to be good people in the world.

Fun Facts About Athletic Director MATT CARR

- He played 2 sports in college
- He came here when he was a kid
- He has worked at the Club 7 ½ years
- He was once the Education Director and Social Recreation Director
- Went to high school with the Performing Arts & Education Director, Mary-Ellen
- Hawthorne Site Coordinator, Berta was his babysitter when he was young
- His favorite teams: Celtics, Giants, Bruins and Red Sox

OUR WISHLIST "Clip & Shop"

• **Some Club supporters** have expressed the desire to donate to the Club by purchasing a particular item we are in need of that would be put to good use by the Club and its members. This is a wonderful way to directly impact the lives of the children we serve. In prior years, the Club has received holiday gifts of a pool table, team uniforms, game systems and new board games. When the kids return from their holiday to find new Club supplies, it is a reminder that they are being thought of during the holiday season. Following is a list of some of the items the Club is currently in need of. As storage space is limited, please call the Club before purchasing or dropping off items to be sure they are put to good use.

• Art Supplies:

- Paint brushes, drawing paper, poster board, wooden boxes to paint, craft kits, gift cards to craft stores

• Program Supplies:

- Event Announcement Board, Game System, Games, Controller,
- Homework Supplies: Calculators, Pens, Pencils, Spiral Notebooks,
- Lined Paper

• Sports Supplies:

- Bumper Pool Table, Foosball Table, Foosballs, Ping Pong Balls, new set of Pool Balls, Free weights for our weight room, Ping Pong Paddles, Ping Pong Table, Pool Sticks, Pool Table, Stop Watches for Gym, Whistles

• Office Supplies:

- Computer Mouses, Electric Pencil Sharpeners, copy paper, photo paper, envelopes, stamps, Post-its, Staplers

• Kitchen Supplies:

- New Pots, Pans, bakeware, cooking utensils, trash bags, plastic utensils, paper plates, bowls

• Tools/Outdoor Items:

- Duct Tape, Masking Tape, Salt for Melting Icedrill, drill bits, wrenches, screwdrivers, rakes, shovels, brooms, wheel Barrow, new rakes, gardening equipment

• Miscellaneous:

- Bookcases, Defibrillator, Display Case

• **To donate an item, call the Club at (978)744-0915 or email jscott@bgcgs.org.**

PEABODY EXPANSION TO HIGGINS MIDDLE SCHOOL... STILL EXPANDING! by Chanel & Adonis

The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Salem expanded its Higgins Middle School site after last year's pilot program was such a success from the view of parents, teachers, and most importantly, kids. Last year's program allowed 40-50 kids to participate in the Club's daily after school programs with 115 kids signing up in total. This year there is an average attendance of about 75 kids a day with already over 135 kids signed up in the first two months. Site Coordinator Greg Passeri truly believes in the mission and has helped to make the program grow thanks to a variety of program offerings. Club members having trouble with academics can turn to one of five teachers during power hour – an hour spent completing homework and practicing study skills. It is unique for a Boys & Girls Club member to have their own teacher running the programs. We have seen this as a positive addition because teachers know exactly how to help individual students in their trouble subjects. For the rest of their time, kids can sign up for one of many sports, theatre, arts & crafts, cooking, newsletter and leadership activities. The Club meets every day after school from 2:30 until 6 p.m. Members receive snacks each day and the cost is just \$10 a year.

Last year, the failure rate among Higgins students enrolled in the Club decreased by 35 percent and 55 percent increased their attendance.

Passeri, a social studies teacher at Higgins Middle School, was once a staff at the main site in Salem and saw a need for an after school program of this nature. For many kids, the program has made a difference in their grades and attendance. Overall, last year the failure rate among Higgins students enrolled in the Club decreased by 35 percent and 55 percent of students increased their attendance. We have hired a total of 11 Higgins teachers, compared to six last year. Having more staff allows the program to run more specialized programs based on the staff's skills. Kids have flocked to cooking programs and really enjoy Smart Girls, a place for female members to talk about things they may otherwise feel uncomfortable discussing or have nowhere else to turn. Regularly scheduled trips to the main Club in Salem allow Peabody kids to socialize with other Club members and feel like a part of the larger organization. Through their \$10 membership fee, Higgins students automatically become members of the Salem Club, and can use the facilities there during school vacations. The students come here for the staff and the rewarding experience only a Boys & Girls Club offers.

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Mariella, Greg Passeri and Coral stand together after an intense session of Friday Trivia and Charades.

WELCOME BACK...

In your hands is the Fall/Winter 2008 Edition of What's the Word, a quarterly publication of the Media Club at the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Salem.

Our first two editions were published in February and May of 2008 and received rave reviews from Club members and the community! Thanks to your support, we are back with even more stories, interviews and photos. There is so much going on at the Club, we had a hard time fitting it all into eight pages!

All stories, interviews and photos are submitted by the What's the Word Staff, comprised of 12 dedicated Club members ages 11-15 whose goal is to keep Club members, supporters and the community informed about all the great things happening at the Club!

Our appreciation goes out to our program sponsor COMCAST who makes this newspaper possible, and Program Director Jodi Sperling for her guidance and support.

We hope you enjoy our 3rd edition of What's The Word, and look forward to bringing you more news in 2009!

MEET THE STAFF OF "WHAT'S THE WORD"



Ashley C., age 15:
I love to dance and listen to music.



Naomi, age 11;
I like hanging out with friends and playing soccer



Gabriely, age 12:
I like to dance and draw.



Aaron, age 13:
I like to go to Jamaica to visit my family and play sports.



Ryan, age 15:
I love to play basketball and work with kids.



Kenny, age 13:
I like to play basketball and learn about history.



Chanel, age 13:
I like to listen to music and sleep.



Justin, age 12:
I like cooking and cartoons.



Alex, age 14:
I like playing basketball and eating.



Jared, age 13:
I like to play sports and meet new people.



Ashley E., age 11: I like to cheerlead and play basketball.

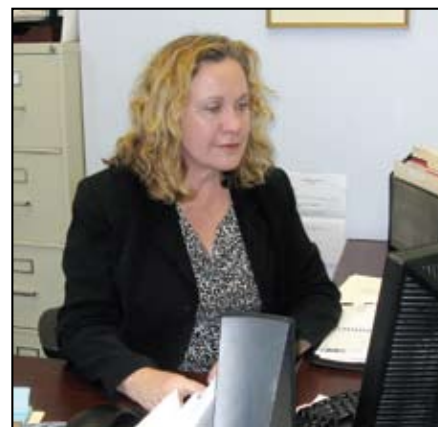


Adonis, age 13:
I like playing basketball and watching movies.

WORD WITH...

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOANNE SCOTT

By Chanel & Gabriely



Executive Director Joanne Scott:
"A pretty cool person"

On a Thursday afternoon at four o'clock we met in Joanne Scott's office to interview her. We are Chanel and Gabriely, two members of the Newspaper program who had the privilege to talk with the new Executive Director.

You may think you know Joanne as a boss, but she is more than just a serious and important woman. Joanne

explained that the important thing about being a boss is that you are part of a team. You want to lead the team by example, being a positive role model for all. This is not her first time working as a boss; she used to work at the Salem Board of Health. Her title was the Health Agent; she strived to make people in Salem stay healthy and safe.

Joanne's favorite part of the Club is the kids; she loves to see the kids have fun and interact with the staff. The Club is very important to the kids and Joanne; she makes sure that the kids keep coming to the Club on a regular basis. Right now she is working many hours each day, because she is new here and needs to learn all about the Club. This is her first time working at the Boys & Girls Club, although she was a Board member and Board President.

The goals that Joanne wants to achieve are to make sure that the community understands what a wonderful place the Club is and all that it accomplishes so that they will want to support it.

Joanne loves to spend time with her family. She has two daughters and a son as well as her eight rescued pets. At the moment she has six cats and two dogs. Her favorite color is blue. Joanne's favorite type of ice cream is chocolate and she loves to eat oatmeal. She has been married for 28 years. Joanne went to Northeastern University and Boston University where she studied Health Sciences. Her birthday is July 9th. When she was younger she never saw or went to a Club like this, but she wished she could have had this opportunity. Some of the places Joanne enjoyed traveling to were Canada, Italy, Greece and Bermuda, and she wishes to go to England, Egypt, Kenya, Africa and more places. She grew up in the city of Winthrop. Her favorite band is The Beatles. Something we found quite surprising was that she got her first cell phone at age 42.

Gabriely and I had so much fun interviewing Joanne. We learned so much and found out that Joanne is a pretty cool person and Director.

Blue Man Group

By: Gabriely & Naomi

The Blue Man Group was a great show we went to in the Spring that was very fun. We were so happy that the theatre donated tickets for 15 kids to see the live show! The members who went were the older and well behaved members. Everyone should see the blue man group some time in their life. They do many different stunts and other funny jokes throughout. Some of the things they do is they pick a couple of audience members to help them with their show without knowing exactly what they would be in for. They play music with these tubes and drums and paint. The actors eat dinner at a table and try to open a Twinkie which they couldn't so they used a chainsaw and much more, but we don't want to give too much away and ruin the surprises. We really enjoy earning special field trips by being involved in a lot of programs and helping out around the Club.



Left: Members of the Club had fun fishing for tickets during the Carnival

Right: Jared, who shaved his head just for his costume, dressed like Mr. T for the Halloween Carnival



Halloween Tricks AND Treats at the Boys & Girls Club

by Chanel & Adonis

The Haunted Happenings Parade

happens each year before at the beginning of the October Halloween Festivities. What they do at the parade is walk from Shetland Park to the Common. The members dress up in their costumes and we walk with the banner that says Boys & Girls Club singing cheers along the way. We have fun at the parade because there is so much enthusiasm in the air and you are with your friends and family members. Kids enjoy themselves because it's an exciting event. The theme we had this year was Never-Never Land from Peter Pan. With the help of Winter Island, we throw Cape Cod Chips at all the spectators.



Above: Club members dressed like pirates for the Haunted Happenings Parade which had a Never, Never Land theme this year.

October 29 was Halloween Carnival, where all of the Club members from our main site, and our two licensed Kids Club programs come together for the afternoon. The members of the Boys & Girls Club dressed up in their costumes and played many games. They won prizes like baseballs, necklaces, book covers, candy and much more. Torch Club and Keystone were running all the game stations. Kids also got hot dogs, chips, and Kool-aid. This is a day where every member gets a chance to win prizes and play



Above: Saira is fierce during bobbing for apples, getting the first one she had her eye (and teeth) on.

games they've never played. The way they won tickets was by being a part of different competitions. To earn a prize you needed to have a certain amount of tickets. For every game if you didn't win you still got a ticket for trying. The games played in the gym were football toss, bowling, limbo, relay races, ring toss, shuffleboard and snake toss. In the game room they played musical chairs, bobbing for apples, pin the nose on the pumpkin, guess the candy corn and face painting. They played bingo in the homework room and there was a fortune-teller in the office.

The two contests we did were "mummy the staff with toilet paper" and a costume contest. We grouped up the kids with different staff and covered them with toilet paper and the staff who was covered the most was the winner. Any Club member who wore a costume got a raffle ticket and the winner won an MP3 player. By the end of the day everybody left home with happiness and prizes in their hands.

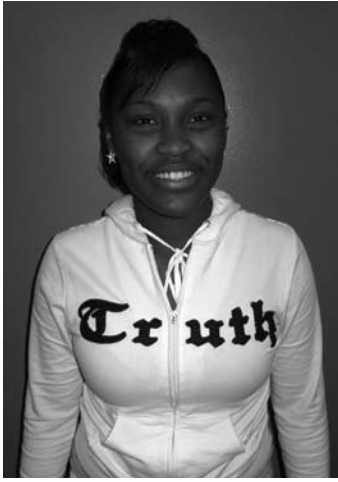


Left: Isabella, Leslie and Sydney all looked beautiful as Tinker Bell for the parade,

Left: Counselors were "mummified" by all the Club members in a contest to use all of their decorations first

Right: Ashely poses with the infamous duck who always makes an appearance with the Boys & Girls Club for the parade





By Junior Staff Member Ashley

Growing up at the Club, I always looked forward to having fun each day and learning something new. I looked up to some of the staff, especially Matt. He's been working here for years. He always gets a laugh out of everyone. I always had fun with the staff, and getting older, I decided I wanted to have the responsibility of having the job of a Junior Staff. My first job was at the Boys & Girls Club was Summer Camp. Becoming a Junior Staff requires a lot of enthusiasm and work. At first I

thought the job was going to be easy; but through all the expectations and requirements, I knew it was no joke. Beginning my job at the camp wasn't always work; the staff had as much fun as the campers did.

Taking in this new responsibility, I came to having kids respect me and actually listen. Everyone had their days that weren't so good, but most of the time we all have smiles on our face and have fun. Now its not as hard as it was in the beginning. I have experience and I've grown closer with the kids than ever before. Seeing them inside and outside the Club, I always check up on how their day is going and how they are doing. Everyone needs someone in their lives that they can look up to and talk to; a role model. That's what a staff can be to the children here at the Club, and that's the most important reason I'm here.

The most flexible group I worked with was the seven and eight year olds. I liked working with them because I always had something to do. They were really into the summer theme weeks and winning games and, of course, prizes. They almost never complained about being tired or not wanting to play certain games. The kids always tried their hardest to get what they wanted. They always had a sense of energy and spirit which made them great working in a group. They also used the words please and thank you without being asked. This kept a smile on my face because I like being respected and I showed respect right back.

I like working more during the summer than the school year. Summer is just about fun with no school work. During the summer, I also had more time to spend with each kid, and during the school year it seems like everyone is scattered throughout their different programs. One thing I can say is that I do love my job and I plan to be here for a long time.

By Junior Staff Member Ryan

To be a Junior Staff isn't just about watching kids and yelling at them when they are running or not listening. The Boys & Girls Club is about having fun and the kids smile for as long as they are here for.

Jodi, my boss, asked me one day if I wanted to be part of the staff in the Boys & Girls Club because of the maturity, enthusiasm, and responsibility I showed as a Club member. I wasn't sure if I wanted to part of the staff as I thought it could be too much responsibility for me. So I had some to think about it, and I said yes. Ever since the first day, I loved the job. As a Junior Staff, I am mostly in the game room and I run the Fraternity Cafe. In the game room I play games with as many kids as I can and try and run tournaments, and strive to get to know every kid, new or old, more and more everyday. I love my job because the kids make me laugh when I have a bad day. I could talk to my kids forever and I will never get bored of it. I was asked what my favorite age group to work with was, but when it comes down to it I love all ages of kids. To be a Junior Staff there are some difficulties, like one day there will be lots of kids in the game room and I have to keep all of them entertained and under control.

One day for a normal day of work, I would walk in and say hi to all the staff I see, and then I would go to the game room and say hi to most of the kids, before they say hi to me. Then I would open the gym and run a game until Matt the Athletic Director comes in and take over. After that I will walk up to the cafe and open it to sell snacks to all the kids. Then spend the rest of the day in the game room or helping kids with homework.

As part of the staff I feel more than wanted for many reasons. One main reasons is because I can speak fluent Spanish and there are some Spanish speaking members in the Club, and some parents that only speak Spanish. When it comes down to a problem with a kid and I am there to solve it, I do a good job with handling it and helping them talk and work out their differences. Something I am proud of is how I can encourage kids to do try new things throughout the Club.

I love my job and am happy to wear a Staff shirt.



CHAMPIONS DINNER Rewards Program Participation

By Naomi & Justin

The Champions Dinner is an event that the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Salem has every year. All the members from the Club gather together in the auditorium and celebrate all the programs that Club members participated in. There were three songs which the Dance Team performed for the first time ever on stage. The staff then announced the champions of every program and everyone gets their award.

There were many awards won including: Youth of Year, Stephen O' Grady Award, Sportsmanship Award, Power Hour MVP, Torch of the Year, and many more. MVPs were given out for four different Basketball Teams plus Football, Floor Hockey, Soccer and Dance. We also had a Coaching Award, Ultimate Journey, Newspaper and many more.



Boys & Girls Club Torch of the Year, MJ

Every member received a T-Shirt that said all the programs, and a certificate with all the programs they attended. We were both champions because everyone is recognized in the Champions Dinner. If you receive a major award it means you show outstanding leadership and are a role model to other Club members.

The winner of the Stephen O' Grady award was Gabriely. The Youth of the Year was Ryan. Both of these members are members of the newspaper staff. The winner of the sportsmanship award was Marc. The Power Hour MVPs were Kyle and Sydney and lastly, Torch of the Year was Matthew J.

We interviewed MJ who won the Torch of the Year, which means he was a part of a variety of programs and did well in all of them. Although he had only come to the Club for one year, he was recognized as an outstanding member by the staff. When MJ went up to get his award he felt scared and proud. Although his favorite program is Torch Club, he also participated in Gym Council, Ultimate Journey, Floor Hockey, Football, Basketball and Dodgeball.

Gabriely has been coming to the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Salem for only one year. In that one year, she attended many programs like: Torch Club, Theater, Dance, Newsletter, Soccer, Power Hour and Smart Girls. Out of

all those programs her favorite was Torch Club and Dance. Overall, Gabriely thought the Champions Dinner was cool because the dinner was from the 99 Restaurant, and she performed with the dance group on the stage which was a new experience for her. When Jodi was describing the Stephen O'Grady award, Gabriely was imagining how great an individual he was. She was surprised and felt like she was going to cry because she was being honored in such a way. Gabriely explained that she had heard so much about that award, and knew she helped around the Club but didn't realize that she had won.

The Champions Dinner is a way for all Club members to be recognized and be proud of all that they have accomplished. Jodi told us that it is one of her favorite events of the whole year because it brings together all of the members from every site so each person gets to see what others do and what the programs are all about.

Gabriely; Proud recipient of the 2008 Stephen O'Grady Award



KEYSTONE and TORCH CLUBS... KIDS WHO CARE

By Gabriely & Naomi

Keystone is a group of teen members ages 13-17 that take responsibility a step further when they participate in the Keystone Club doing community service, service to the Club and social activities. This group is considered the premier leadership group and produces outstanding members who become candidates for the Youth of the Year Program. Keystone is like an older version of Torch Club since both have a primary goal of helping the community. Keystone meets every week on Tuesdays from 5-6.

Torch Club has raised money and walked in the Walk for HAWC, Walk for Hunger, Hospice Walk, and the Cancer Walk

Lindsey is one of the members of Keystone. Lindsey loves Keystone - in fact it is the main reason she comes to the Club. Lindsey has been coming to the Boys & Girls Club for 8 years and has been in Keystone for two years. Lindsey has participated in almost all the activities in Keystone and was a finalist for the 2007-2008 Youth of the Year where she not only had to get interviewed by six staff

members but also by a panel of judges. Keystone is working with Salem Access Television to do a television program interviewing members of the club and the community on various topics. They are working on how to use the equipment from sound to lighting to cameras to make a new Boys & Girls Club show. She thinks it is a lot of fun to do SATV because you get to hang out with your friends and at the same you learn about different types of jobs with cameras and it is something the Club has never done. In the past, Keystone has helped to run the Halloween Carnival and do a yard clean up.

The Torch Club is a group of Club members ages 8- 12 years old. Torch Club is a leadership group throughout the Boys & Girls Club, which works within

the Club and the community. As a member of Torch Club, We learn how to be a role model but also take part in other activities like going on field trips and having fun. Torch Club is one of the most popular clubs in the Boys & Girls Club. Torch Club has raised money and walked in the Walk for HAWC, Walk for Hunger, Hospice Walk, and the Cancer Walk and also held penny wars and bake sales. We ran many of the games at this year's Halloween Carnival, and often clean around the Club. We are doing a Thanksgiving canned food drive. We hope to do other things in the coming year to help out and be seen as leaders.

Lily has been in Torch Club for two years and has been coming to the Boys & Girls Club for 2 ½ years. Lily likes to help people especially when they need it, everything from helping other kids with homework and playing games with kids who may not have other friends. Lily has not only raised money for all the walks in Torch Club but she has walked in the HAWC Walk (Help Abused Woman and their Children), the Cancer Walk through North Shore Medical Center and the Hospice Walk. Lily is in a lot of programs including Power Hour, Ultimate Journey, Theatre, and Dance but her favorite is Torch Club. In September, Lily was the Torch of the Month which all of the staff vote on at the end of each month. This means Lily shows a great deal of service to Club, is a role model for her community and family, has strong academic performance, moral character and life goals.

Torch Club member Lily has been a Boys & Girl Club member for 2 1/2 years.



SPORTSMANSHIP AND TEAMWORK PART OF THE GAME FOR FLOOR HOCKEY AND TEEN BASKETBALL TEAMS

By Kenny & Alex



Devin mentally and physically prepares during floor hockey practice

The 13 and under Traveling Floor Hockey Team had try outs at the beginning of October. Twenty kids tried out but only thirteen made it. The floor hockey team is a very young team; most are only nine or ten years old. They still have a lot to learn both about the skills of the sport and how to work well as a team. If the kids stay on the team, in a few years they will be a strong team who could do well overall. The floor hockey team has good sportsmanship. They cheer for their team and the other teams too. The floor hockey team goes to many different places to play where they get to see other Boys & Girls Clubs and meet kids that are just like them. Some places they go to are Waltham, South Boston, Medford, Newton and other places. Games are three periods long; each period is 10 minutes with a running clock. The kids have a lot of fun playing and trying their best, and of course stopping for food after each game.

We interviewed two members of the floor hockey team. Saira plays on defense and hopes to try Goalie. Saira like to play floor hockey, she also was on last year's traveling soccer team and basketball team. When Saira plays floor hockey

her favorite part is getting to be with her teammates. Saira plays floor hockey because she thinks it is fun. She has been coming to the Club for five years. She also comes to the Club to play dodge ball and football in the gym. When Saira isn't in the gym she enjoys the Dance Program and Torch Club.

Another person we interviewed was Devin. He plays goalie on the floor hockey team. Devin likes to play floor hockey and has been coming to the Club for three years. Devin is ten years old and his favorite thing to do at the Boys & Girls Club is to go to the gym. This is his first time on a traveling team for Club and likes going so many different places.

Thursday nights, about 40 teens come here to the Club to play basketball. Most of them came to the Club for a long time but some of them just started coming to the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Salem. My partner and I interviewed a counselor named Andre because he is the Teen Director and runs the 4-on-4 games with Matt, the Athletic Director. We asked him "What do they get if they win?" and he said with a grin on his face "They get pride". The purpose of this program is for when the teens try out for their school and Boys & Girls Club travel team they will be prepared.

There are about eight teams of teens ages 13 to 18. Of course we asked if they eat after they play and Andre said "Yes, everything from pizza to hot dogs."

After the questions, we parted ways with Andre and met up with a teen that goes and plays here named Ericson. Ericson says that he enjoys playing basketball at the Club and has been coming for 5 years. Ericson has done not only Boys & Girls Club travel teams, but also our summer program. He said that he enjoys coming here and he said he doesn't get exhausted when he plays even though Andre works him hard.

Basketball action in the Boys & Girls Club gym



Athletic Director Matt Carr sits proudly with two members of the floor hockey team, Saira and Devin

We asked (Teen Director Andre) "What do they get if they win?" and he said with a grin on his face "They get pride".



Manny, Ellison and Randy proudly display the new mats during Teen 4 on 4 basketball night.

I asked Club members: "What do you want to be when you grow up?"



Kristian, Age 7:
Policeman, because I want to help the city.



Kayla S., Age 10:
Babysitter, because I like kids.



Alexa & Alisa, Both Age 9:
Alexa: **Model**, because I like modeling.
Alisa: **Teacher**, because I like kids.



Kayla V., Age 10
Actress because I like to act and have fun.



Kayla P., Age 5:
Work in a pet store, because I like animals.



Ian & Sean, Age 10:
Ian: **Chef**, because I like to cook.
Sean: **Veterinarian**, because I like animals.



Claudine, Age 9:
Artist because I like to color and am good at drawing.



Joa, Age 9:
Veterinarian, because I love animals.



Amber, Age 11:
Veterinarian, because I get to be with animals everyday.



Jackson, Age 9:
Architect because I want to make lots of money and I am good at making Lego buildings.



Jonah, Age 5:
Scientist, because they study things.



Allie, Age 7:
Teacher, because I think it is interesting.



Brent, Age 11:
Pro football player because I like football.



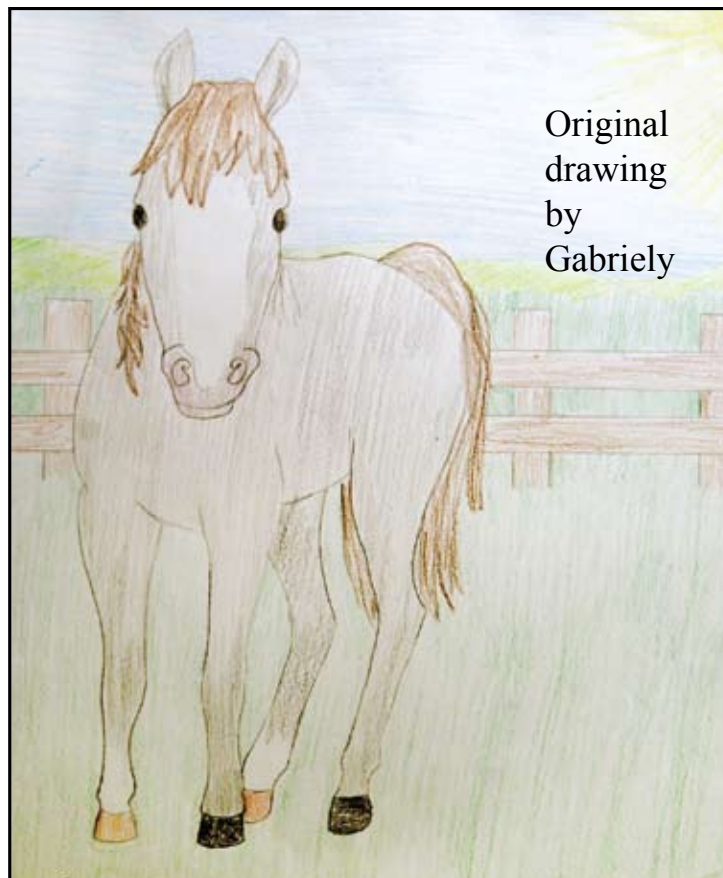
Leslie, Age 10:
Singer, because I like singing.



Kenidee, Age 8 1/2:
A professional dancer, I take dance at the Club and used to take tap and jazz classes.



Kyle, Age 11:
Pro Baseball player because I am good at baseball.



Original drawing by Gabriely

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