



**P.O. Box 161, Goshen Road
Litchfield, CT 06759
www.ctjuniorrepublic.org**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 5, 2011

CONTACT:

Hedy L. Barton
Director of Development
office: 860-567-9423, ext. 252
fax: 860-567-8127
home: 860-693-8635
email: hbarton@cjryouth.org

NEWS RELEASE

16TH ANNUAL CJR INVITATIONAL TO BE HELD JUNE 20

The 16th annual **CJR Invitational** golf benefit will be held on Monday, June 20, at the Torrington Country Club. Robert G. Phelan of Canton, Chairman and CEO of the Torrington-based Litchfield Insurance Group, is Chairman of the event, and Gregory S. Oneglia of Litchfield, Vice Chairman of the Torrington-based O&G Industries, is Founding Chairman. The following individuals are vice chairmen of this year's benefit:

- Bill Dranginis of Litchfield, *Golf*
- Susan A. Levine of Litchfield, *Publicity and Media Production*
- Jennifer Parsons of Litchfield and Tina Posila of Wolcott, *Prizes*
- Susan Sweetman of Litchfield, *Volunteers*

Celebrity participants for the day include NBC-30 news anchors Gerry Brooks and Brad Drazen, meteorologist Bob Maxon, and chief political correspondent Tom Monahan.

Top event sponsors include the New Britain-based American Savings Foundation, as the Premier Sponsor and Union Savings Bank, which is the Diamond Sponsor. Litchfield Insurance Group and O & G Industries, are Emerald Sponsors. American Airlines and Sanditz Travel are sponsoring the Grand Prize, which includes round-trip airfare for two to the Caribbean and a three-night, all-inclusive stay at Barceló Bavaro Palace Deluxe Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic.

Hole-in-One prizes include a BMW automobile, courtesy of Watertown BMW and a Volvo automobile, courtesy of Mitchell Auto Group, with dealerships in the Farmington Valley and Litchfield Hills.

Proceeds from the event will ultimately benefit the more than 1,000 boys and girls who are served by the Junior Republic each year in nine locations throughout Connecticut, including Danbury, East Hartford, Litchfield, Meriden, New Britain, Torrington, Waterbury and Winchester. Last year's **CJR Invitational** raised net proceeds of more than \$60,000, and funded special projects and capital improvements at CJR's various program locations.

(continued)

“This benefit continues to be a great success, thanks to the leadership of a loyal and enthusiastic team of volunteers and the generous support of friends in the business community,” said CJR Executive Director, John F. Boyd. “In these difficult economic times, proceeds from the **CJR Invitational** are increasingly important to our organization and we are very grateful to the individuals and businesses that make this event such an effective fundraiser.” Mr. Boyd noted that the CJR golf benefit receives significant support from businesses and individuals in northwest Connecticut and expressed gratitude for this strong involvement.

“With a new residential program for boys on our Litchfield campus, as well as education programs serving nearly 70 students, and further expansion of services provided by our Torrington office, CJR is now serving more children and families from northwest Connecticut and Litchfield county than ever before,” stated Mr. Boyd.

According to event Chairman, Robert Phelan, the golf benefit has raised more than \$900,000 for the Junior Republic since 1996. “The **CJR Invitational** has a very loyal following, and this year we hope that cumulative net proceeds for this event will exceed \$1 million,” he said. “Our volunteers and sponsors are very committed to the Junior Republic, and to reaching this goal,” he continued.

Founding Chairman Gregory Oneglia, who established the **CJR Invitational** in 1996, is pleased that the event has raised such substantial funds since that time. He expressed confidence that the 2011 event will do well despite the economy. “We offer golfers a challenging course, a wonderful day, and the opportunity to enjoy a memorable evening with friends and business associates,” he said. “Our participants know that their involvement helps the Junior Republic provide services for some of Connecticut’s most disadvantaged boys, girls and families and that their continued support is very important,” he stated.

Founded in 1904, the Connecticut Junior Republic (CJR) provides care, treatment, education and family support for at-risk, special needs and troubled young people so they can become productive and fulfilled members of their homes, schools and communities.

The Junior Republic conducts a residential program for court-referred young men on its Litchfield campus. Special, vocational and alternative education programs are provided for boys from communities throughout Connecticut at CJR’s Cable Academic and Vocational Education Center, which is also located on its Litchfield campus. Transition and related services are also provided.

CJR provides a further dimension of residential care for boys at its group homes in East Hartford and Winchester, as well as short-term, residential crisis intervention for girls at its Center for Assessment, Respite and Enrichment (CARE) in Waterbury. A broad spectrum of prevention, early intervention, family support, and intensive home-based services, and aftercare, are provided for boys and girls through CJR’s offices in Danbury, Meriden, New Britain, Torrington and Waterbury (two sites).

A private charitable organization, the Connecticut Junior Republic is accredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA) and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). CJR is supported by gifts from individuals, businesses and organizations, and through service contracts funded by the Court Support Services Division (CSSD) of the Connecticut Judicial Branch, the Connecticut Department of Children and Families (DCF), the Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS), and by Connecticut's public schools. For further information, please contact Hedy Barton, Director of Development and Public Relations (860) 567-9423, extension 252; or by email: hbarton@cjyouth.org.