



A Century of Caring for Youth

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NEWS RELEASE

GOLF EVENT RAISES \$60,000 TO BENEFIT JUNIOR REPUBLIC

Litchfield – Robert G. Phelan, Chairman and CEO of the Litchfield Insurance Group, and Chairman of the **CJR Invitational** golf benefit, recently announced that the 2009 event raised \$60,000 in net proceeds to benefit the Connecticut Junior Republic. A member of the Connecticut Junior Republic’s Board of Directors, Mr. Phelan assumed chairmanship of the event in 2006. Gregory S. Oneglia, Vice Chairman of O & G Industries and a former President of the Junior Republic’s Board of Directors, is the Founding Chairman of the **CJR Invitational**, which was established in 1996.

With this year’s proceeds, the **CJR Invitational** has raised nearly \$900,000 in net proceeds to benefit the Connecticut Junior Republic. Mr. Phelan attributed the success of the CJR’s golf benefit to the loyal support of participants, sponsors, and a dedicated corps of volunteers, who plan and conduct the event.

In addition to Mr. Phelan and Mr. Oneglia, the following Vice Chairs played a critical role in the success of the event:

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

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“Volunteer leadership is critical to all events, and we are very fortunate to have an enthusiastic and committed group involved in planning the CJR golf benefit,” stated CJR Executive Director John Boyd. “The long association that many of our volunteers have with the **CJR Invitational** is an important factor in its success,” he continued. “Their commitment to CJR and to this event is invaluable to the quality of our benefit and to attracting a loyal following,” he noted.

Mr. Boyd also expressed gratitude to NBC-30 news anchors Gerry Brooks, Brad Drazen, and meteorologist Bob Maxon for their participation in the 2009 **CJR Invitational** as event celebrities.

The New Britain-based American Savings Foundation was the Premier Sponsor of the event. The Litchfield Insurance Group was an Emerald Sponsor. American Airlines and Sanditz Travel, along with Sunswept Resorts, sponsored the Grand Prize for the event, which included airfare for two to the Caribbean and a luxurious, all-inclusive stay at The Body Holiday on the island of Saint Lucia. An additional special prize included a three-night stay at Tres Rios Resort in Riviera Maya, donated by Sanditz Travel and Aird & Wojcik Resort Marketing.

Hole-in-One prizes included a BMW automobile, courtesy of County Line BMW of Watertown and a Volvo automobile, courtesy of the Mitchell Auto Group, with dealerships in the Farmington Valley and Torrington.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the approximately 1,000 boys, girls and families served by the Connecticut Junior Republic annually in locations throughout Connecticut.

Mr. Boyd expressed appreciation to the American Savings Foundation for its continued support as Premier Sponsor. “The Foundation has a particular interest in supporting programs that benefit Connecticut children, and its sponsorship is used to fund programs and improvements that benefit the more than 700 boys and girls we serve on an annual basis at our community programs in Waterbury,” he said.

“All of us who are involved with this event as volunteers find it very gratifying to know that our support helps some of Connecticut’s most disadvantaged boys, girls and families,” said Mr. Phelan.

Founded in 1904, the Connecticut Junior Republic (CJR) has provided residential and community-based care, treatment and education for troubled and at-risk young people for more than 100 years. Today, the organization’s combined programs serve approximately 1,000 boys and girls from communities throughout

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Connecticut. CJR operates group homes for boys in East Hartford and Winchester, a short-term residential program for girls in Waterbury, and community-based programs serving boys and girls in the Danbury, Torrington/Northwest Connecticut and Greater Waterbury regions. Special, alternative and vocational education programs, as well as transition and related services, are provided for boys on CJR's Litchfield campus.

A private charitable organization, the Connecticut Junior Republic is accredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA). CJR is supported by contributions 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@cjryouth.org.