



*Helping and Teaching Youth for Over 100 Years*

**P.O. Box 161, Goshen Road  
Litchfield, CT 06759  
[www.ctjuniorrepublic.org](http://www.ctjuniorrepublic.org)**

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**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](mailto:hbarton@cjryouth.org)*

**NEWS RELEASE**

**ANNUAL CJR INVITATIONAL TO BE HELD JUNE 21**

The 15<sup>th</sup> annual **CJR Invitational** golf benefit will be held on Monday, June 21, 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 senior television reporter and political analyst Tom Monahan.

The New Britain-based American Savings Foundation is the Premier Sponsor of the event. American Airlines and Sanditz Travel are the Grand Prize sponsors. American Airlines has donated round-trip airfare for two to the Caribbean, to be combined with a three-night, all-inclusive stay at Mango Bay Resort in Barbados, donated by Sanditz Travel and Aird & Wojcik Marketing.

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 approximately 1,000 boys and girls who are served by the Junior Republic each year. Last year's **CJR Invitational** raised proceeds of nearly \$60,000, and funded special projects and capital improvements at CJR's program locations throughout Connecticut.

"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,

(continued)

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.

“While the Junior Republic continues to serve kids and families from virtually every region of the state, our expanded education programs on the Litchfield campus and opening of a new office in Torrington mean that CJR is now providing care, treatment and education programs for 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 nearly \$900,000 for the Junior Republic since 1996. “The **CJR Invitational** has a very loyal following, but we always look forward to welcoming new participants,” he said. “Our volunteers and sponsors are very committed to the Junior Republic and are gratified to know that their support helps such a worthy cause,” he continued.

Gregory Oneglia, who founded the **CJR Invitational** in 1996, is pleased that proceeds from the benefit have grown so significantly since the event was established and expressed confidence that the 2010 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) has provided residential and community-based care, treatment and education for at-risk and troubled young people for more than 100 years. Today, the organization’s combined programs serve approximately 1,000 boys and girls from communities throughout 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 at-risk and special needs 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](mailto:hbarton@cjryouth.org).