

Connecticut Junior Republic - Helping & Teaching Youth Since 1904

The Junior Citizen

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT JUNIOR REPUBLIC

SPRING 2018



ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP DINNER

Helping CJR Students Reach
Higher Education Goals

UPCOMING EVENTS

Participate in CJR's Efforts
to Assist Connecticut
Youth and Families

CAVEC SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

CJR Opens School
for Girls in Bristol



The 2017-18 fiscal year will come to a close on June 30, and it has been an exciting 12 months for the Junior Republic. This year, CJR opened several new programs, including a school for girls in Bristol. The girls' school represents a particularly important addition to CJR's continuum of care for an under-served population.

The past year has also been an extremely challenging one for both the Junior Republic and the young people and families we help. Across the state, the number of prevention and early intervention programs available for at-risk young people has been significantly reduced as a result of budget cuts within the agencies that CJR and other nonprofit organizations partner with to provide services.

With fewer prevention and early intervention services available, more children and youth are being referred to the Junior Republic in crisis and with a multitude of unmet needs. Generous gifts, grants and legacies help us provide the necessary resources that young people need to make transformational changes in their lives. Scholarships, wraparound services, unique educational opportunities and innovative new programs, such as our Wellness Center and school for girls, have all been made possible or significantly enhanced by private philanthropy.

If you are a CJR contributor, thank you for your vital support of our work with young people. Your generosity makes such a difference to the children and families helped by CJR's services! If you are not currently a donor, I hope you will consider the positive impact your involvement would have on some of the State's most vulnerable and disadvantaged young people.

Daniel W. Rezende
Executive Director

The *Junior Citizen* is published for friends of the Connecticut Junior Republic (CJR). A private, not-for-profit organization, the Junior Republic provides care, treatment and education services for at-risk, special needs and troubled boys and girls in 13 locations throughout Connecticut. CJR's programs include residential care for boys in Litchfield; special, vocational and alternative education, as well as transition and related services for adolescent boys and girls at the Cable Academic and Vocational Education Center in Litchfield and Bristol; a group home for boys in Winchester; and community-based programs serving boys, girls, and families in Danbury, East Hartford, Manchester, Meriden, New Britain, New Haven, Torrington, Waterbury and Winsted. Charitable contributions are critical to the CJR's ability to provide young people with the opportunities they need to succeed in their homes, schools and communities.

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Daniel W. Rezende
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Katherine M. Budzyn, M.B.A., SHRM-SCP

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Director of Behavioral Health Services:

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Director of Residential Services:

Christine M. Jaffer, L.C.S.W.

Director of Education and Student Services:

James K. Obst, M.S., C.A.G.S.

Chief Financial Officer:

Patricia A. Shishkov, B.S.

Director of Performance and Quality Improvement:

Julianne Torrence, L.C.S.W.

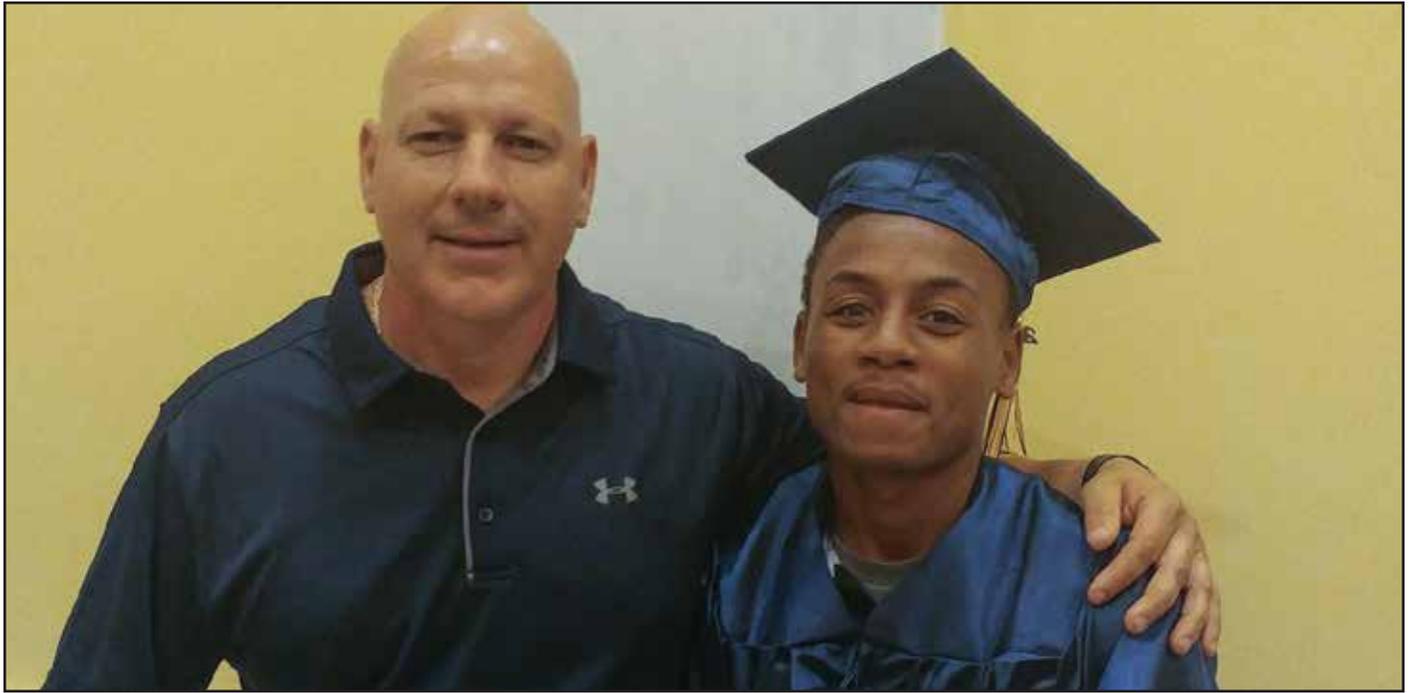
The Connecticut Junior Republic's annual report is available upon request and on its website:

www.ctjuniorrepublic.org

CJR is accredited by the Council on Accreditation and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, and a member of the Child Welfare League of America and the Children's League of Connecticut. The Connecticut Junior Republic provides services for children, youth and families of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin.

Primary public support for services is provided by the Judicial Branch, Court Support Services Division, the Connecticut Department of Children and Families, the Connecticut Department of Social Services and by Connecticut's public schools.

Cover: CJR student works with Culinary Arts Instructor Elias Litos at the new CAVEC School in Bristol for girls.



CJR Opens New Programs in Waterbury

The Connecticut Junior Republic recently opened two new evidence-based programs serving adolescents at its 80 Prospect Street location in Waterbury: the Access, Screening and Engagement, Recovery Support and Treatment (ASSERT) Model and the Community Connector Organization (CCO) Effective Practices in Community Support for Influencers (EPICS-I) Programs. CCO EPICS-I is a Federal Demonstration Project and CJR is one of four organizations in Connecticut selected to provide this program.

ASSERT Treatment Model (ATM)

The ASSERT Treatment Model (ATM) opened in February of 2018 and serves adolescents and families referred by the Department of Children and Families (DCF). Probation, the courts, families, schools, and any other community agency may refer to this program. ATM assists youth who are using, or may be using, opioid drugs by providing comprehensive services to address this use and by promoting on-going recovery. This outpatient substance abuse treatment program provides support through a continuum of services for teens and their families, including Multidimensional Family Therapy (MDFT) and access to Medication Assisted Treatment, if required. Following treatment, ATM offers 12 months of Recovery Management Check-ups and Support (RMCS) and at least 90 days of recovery support sessions, with frequency determined on a case-by-case basis. Serving young people, ages 16 to 21, ATM provides personalized services that accommodate the needs of the youth and families served.

CCO EPICS-I

Developed by the University of Cincinnati, the Community Connector Organization (CCO) EPICS-I Program opened in October of 2017 and is designed to help individuals and organizations reduce recidivism, increase positive social interactions and interests, and build and

strengthen communication and problem-solving skills in high and very high risk youth, ages 15 to 19. CJR's EPICS-I Program serves young people who are involved in the juvenile justice system and reside in Waterbury. As part of the program, CJR staff and other professionals, including probation officers and DCF social workers, collaborate with the adolescent and his/her family to identify a prosocial person who will be trained as an influencer in the young person's life. EPICS-I model training includes identification of risk situations and thinking; redirecting risky thinking; use of structured skill building; teaching problem-solving skills; building relationships and using effective reinforcement and disapproval. Influencers and enrolled youth are assisted by CJR coaches trained in nationally recognized practices and in teaching the EPICS-I Model. The CJR coaches also facilitate community assistance and provide oversight of the program model for the influencer.

"It is an honor to be selected to participate in this cutting-edge program model," stated CJR Director of Residential Services Christine Jaffer, L.C.S.W. "If the EPICS-I project has favorable results, we hope to continue this model beyond the demonstration period," she said.

CJR Opens School for Girls in Bristol



In September of 2017, the Connecticut Junior Republic's Cable Academic and Vocational Education Center (CAVEC) opened a new day school for girls in Bristol. The school provides special, vocational and alternative education, as well as transition and related services, which help students develop independent living skills and successfully re-acclimate to their public schools and communities. Enhancement and enrichment programs are also offered, and a school psychologist and social worker provide counseling services as needed.

Each student enrolls in academic and career-focused vocational education classes. Vocational electives include Culinary Arts and Restaurant Management, Cosmetology, Graphics and Web Design, Coding, Plant Science and Landscape Design, and Fine Arts.

The new CAVEC site is based in the former Saint Anthony School, and located at 30 Pleasant Street. The leased building provides approximately 11,500 square feet of classroom and educational space on the first floor, which generously accommodates the enrollment of 12 girls.

"We are delighted to be providing services for an under-served population of students," stated CJR Executive Director Daniel W. Rezende. "The facilities we are leasing in this location are ideal for our students and for future growth," he added.

Based on inquiries and educational needs described by public schools, CJR determined that a school for girls would bring a much needed and new dimension of service to CJR's educational programs and overall continuum of care. CJR's new school helps girls with special education needs, including students with emotional, learning, intellectual and multiple disabilities.

The school culture adheres to strength-based programming, wherein a student's natural talents are the building blocks for improving other aspects of their character and academic performance.

Director of Special Education at the Bristol school, Diane Haggis, Ed.D., explained the program's unique philosophy toward education, noting that a strength-based approach to programming is paramount to meeting the needs of a diverse student body. "Students are encouraged to meet their potential in a positive learning environment," she noted, "and this enables them to grow in their own capacity."

The staff is critical to helping students achieve success and to promoting the mission of the new school. Dr. Haggis described the CAVEC teachers as “completely invested in helping girls who have a history of struggling with education.”

CJR Director of Education and Student Services James K. Obst stated, “Girls with special educational needs require resources similar to those we provide for boys in Litchfield.” He noted that referrals to the new girls’ school are coming from public schools throughout Connecticut.

“In Bristol, we provide vocational experiences in the school, such as culinary arts, as well as courses that are offered in collaboration with businesses and organizations in the community,” he said. “This kind of exposure is critical to our students and gives them the opportunity to learn social and employability skills that they will need to obtain and keep a job,” he explained.

Students may participate in a number of work study related courses, including hair styling and makeup at the Torrington Beauty Academy and early childhood development at Imagine Children’s Museum. The girls have already begun contributing back to the community by reaching out to the local Christian Fellowship Center Soup Kitchen to prepare and deliver meals.

“Unprompted, a student expressed that she wished to help the less fortunate,” Humanities Teacher Nicholas Hall said. “The student wrote a proposal, and with the help of Culinary Arts Instructor, Elias Litos, designed a plan so students could create and distribute culinary dishes to the needy.”

The school has already had a positive impact on its students. “I’ve learned valuable skills here,” noted one young woman, “including how to budget, plan for my future and maintain my mental health and stability. The one-on-one teaching fits my needs and is helpful in my daily life,” she explained.

As part of the School’s Wellness and Health initiative, girls are offered a full breakfast during first period class, which is held in the



cafeteria, and is one of many programs providing valuable experiences and skills for students at CAVEC.

Students appreciate the staff as well as the variety of educational experiences. “I can’t choose my favorite class because the teachers make every period enjoyable and worth attending,” said another student. Both girls would recommend CAVEC to other students with special needs, and one added that she already had done so.

“As a teacher, I’ve met some of the kindest students at CAVEC’s Bristol campus,” Mr. Hall observed. “The girls work hard to ensure their peers feel welcome and accepted, and they have a strong desire to learn and succeed in life,” he said.

For more information about CJR’s Bristol School and education services for girls, please contact James Obst, Director of Education and Student Services at CJR’s Cable Academic and Vocational Education Center: 860-567-9423, ext. 211.



CJR Scholarships: Empowering Outstanding Students



From left to right: Joanne Medina, Jakub Gwiazda and Amelia Shannon.

On Thursday, June 7, 2018, CJR will hold the 17th *Annual Scholarship Dinner* at La Bella Vista in Waterbury. This popular event is expected to draw an attendance of more than 350 sponsors, guests, scholarship recipients and family members. The evening starts promptly at 6:30 PM and includes a buffet dinner of salad, pasta, choice of chicken or fish, potatoes, vegetables and chocolate mousse cake for dessert. Scholarships will be awarded to students served by CJR's community-based programs in Danbury, East Hartford, Manchester, Meriden, New Britain, New Haven, Torrington and Waterbury. Applicants who are enrolled in or entering a higher education program or a trade school following high school graduation are eligible for support. Scholarship funds may also assist program participants who are entering the U.S. Armed Forces to serve their country and learn new skills.

SETTING RECORDS

In 2017, the *Scholarship Dinner* raised record net proceeds of approximately \$40,000, nearly doubling funds raised the previous year. These proceeds were used to provide scholarships for a record 24 CJR boys and girls who received their awards in front of an all-time high attendance of 360 guests. Each year, this event continues to grow and accommodate more young people. These students are often the first members of their families to attend college or pursue a technical education, and without the funds awarded by the Connecticut Junior Republic, many could not afford further education.

This year's scholarship fundraising was kicked off by a \$15,000 gift from Union Savings Bank in honor of CJR Board member Gregory Oneglia, along with a \$5,000 grant from the Patricia S. Heyman Foundation and a \$10,000 sponsorship from CJR Board member Stefan Bothe. Mr. Bothe also contributed two challenge grants, totaling \$5,000 to boost funds for scholarships.

BRIGHT FUTURES

Past scholarship recipients have gone on to institutions of higher education, such as Porter and Chester Institute, University of Massachusetts, and Johnson and Wales University. Courses of study have included Business Administration, Education, Nursing, Forensic Science, Communications and Marketing. The following section spotlights a few of CJR's prior scholarship recipients.

Amelia Shannon received a CJR scholarship in 2003. She attended Virginia State University, and later earned a master's degree. Amelia has worked in numerous CJR programs over the years, and is currently the Lead Clinical Coordinator at CJR's Child, Youth and Family Support Center in New Haven.

Joanne Medina received her scholarship while she was a young mother enrolled in an Associate's Degree program in 2005 at Naugatuck Valley Community College. Joanne is actively pursuing a master's degree in social work and has worked in multiple CJR locations. She is currently the coordinator for the Junior Republic's Teen Outreach Program in Meriden.

Brea Ashe received a scholarship in 2017 and is studying at the Culinary Institute of America. She will be participating in an externship at the Biltmore Estate in North Carolina this summer where she will be working in two restaurants of her choice.

Jakub Gwiazda was a scholarship recipient in 2017 and is studying Civil Engineering at the University of Connecticut. He aspires to become an entrepreneur and work in his field. He is also a talented artist.

Josh and Victor Marcial were scholarship recipients in 2017 and both brothers are studying communications at the University of Hartford.



From left to right: Victor and Josh Marcial

Josh aspires to become a sports journalist and Victor dreams of working at a video game company in North Carolina.



Victor Sampson

Victor Sampson was a 2017 scholarship recipient and has been studying communications at Mitchell College. Victor envisions himself as a social worker, therapist, or school counselor once he graduates.

To help CJR's 2018 scholarship recipients by attending or sponsoring the Connecticut Junior Republic's 17th Annual Scholarship Dinner, please see page 8 for more information.



Brea Ashe at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NY.

EVE



JUNE 7



JUNE 18

17th Annual **SCHOLARSHIP DINNER**

CJR will hold its 17th *Annual Scholarship Dinner* at La Bella Vista, located at 380 Farmwood Road, Waterbury, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM, on Thursday, June 7th.

Proceeds raised at this event will provide scholarships for boys and girls who are associated with CJR's community-based programs throughout Connecticut. These scholarships will assist students in obtaining a college, university, or technical school education. Scholarships may also support students who have enlisted to serve their country in the United States Armed Forces or Job Corps, and need financial assistance in fulfilling this commitment.

Tickets to attend the event are available until May 30, 2018, for \$30 each and include a buffet dinner. Other levels of sponsorship are available and donations are always welcomed. Please contact CJR's Development Office for more information.

In 2017, funds raised and scholarships awarded surpassed previous records, netting nearly \$40,000 of educational assistance for 24 students. Please see page 6 to learn more about this important program.

For information on all events
contact CJR's Development Office:
(860) 567-9423, ext. 278,
or visit our website:
www.ctjuniorrepublic.org

23rd Annual **CJR INVITATIONAL – GOLF BENEFIT**

On Monday, June 18th, the 23rd Annual **CJR Invitational** Golf Benefit will be held at the Torrington Country Club, a 6,700 yard, Par 72 golf course. Various levels of sponsorship are available—please see left column for contact and website information.

The 2017 **CJR Invitational** was supported by approximately 300 sponsors, golfers and volunteers. This event netted nearly \$82,000, bringing the total funds raised by this event (since its 1996 inception) to over \$1.4 million. All of the funds raised are used to assist CJR in providing care, treatment and education programs for nearly 2,000 boys, girls and families served annually.

Golf Participation in the event includes luncheon and an 18-hole golf tournament, followed by a cocktail reception, with carving stations, a variety of hot and cold hors d'oeuvres and a dessert table. An awards ceremony and prize drawings will wrap up the evening.

Join **CJR Invitational** Founding Chairman Gregory Oneglia, Vice Chairman of O&G Industries, and Chairman Robert Phelan, Chairman and CEO of TriPoint, along with NBC-30 news celebrities Gerry Brooks and Bob Maxon, for a beautiful day on the links.

NITS



SEPTEMBER 8

The Litchfield Aid of CJR Presents:
HIGH SPIRITS IN THE HILLS

On Saturday, September 8th, The Litchfield Aid of CJR will present *High Spirits in the Hills*, a wine, craft beer and spirits tasting fundraiser for the benefit of the Connecticut Junior Republic. This event will be held from 6:00 to 9:00 PM at the Woodridge Lake Clubhouse in Goshen. Wine and craft beers will be curated by the Litchfield Hills Wine Market and an array of spirits will be presented by the Litchfield Distillery. A silent auction will also be a part of the evening festivities, with music provided by Switch Factory and hors d'oeuvres by Ciesco Catering.

High Spirits in the Hills follows the successful footsteps of The Aid's past events, including *Horses and Hats in the Hills*, *High Stakes in the Hills*, and *High Style in the Hills*, and promises to be another night of not-to-miss fun.

The Litchfield Aid of CJR is a nonprofit volunteer organization that has been raising funds for the sole benefit of the Connecticut Junior Republic for more than 100 years. Since its inception, The Aid has contributed more than \$2.5 million to CJR.



OCTOBER 14

6th Annual
CARS FOR KIDS – AUTOMOBILE SHOW

CJR, in collaboration with Valley Collector Car Club and the Litchfield Hills Historical Automobile Club, is pleased to announce the 6th Annual *Cars for Kids* Automobile Show on Sunday, October 14th (rain date October 21st).

This growing event welcomed over 320 exhibitors and 650 spectators in 2017, and is anticipated to draw even more automobiles to CJR's Litchfield campus this year.

Gates open at 8:00 AM for exhibitors and registration is \$10 per car. The first 200 show car registrants receive exhibitor bags. The first 100 exhibitors will also receive dashboard plaques. Spectator gates open at 10:00 AM and admission is \$5 per car (unlimited occupancy). Contact CJR's Development Office to learn more about sponsorships or to pledge a donation for exhibitor bags.

Students will be serving breakfast items and lunch in the D'Assern Dining Room and there will be hamburgers, hot dogs, beverages and other treats at the Food Court. Spectacular baked goods will be offered at The Litchfield Aid's bake sale tent and CJR's Roadside Market will be open, offering seasonal produce, flowers and pumpkins, grown on the Junior Republic's farm, as well as products made in vocational classes.

This event offers fun for the whole family, including hayrides, face and pumpkin painting, and a scavenger hunt!

Now and Then: Bill Butler CJR '64 - '66



Bill and Diane "Dee" Butler at a 2017 Christmas Party.

Bill Butler started his 2015 Ford Mustang, black with silver stripes and surging with horsepower, and listened to its powerful reverberations in the driveway of his Florida home. As Bill revved the muscle car's peak performance engine, an old friend's voice resonated in the back of his mind: "Yeah, you did it, didn't you?" As Bill rolled out of his driveway, he found himself reminiscing about days at the Connecticut Junior Republic between 1964 and 1966, and Mr. Alvord, his old friend and favorite CJR teacher.

Mr. Butler came to CJR from a difficult home situation. His mother was manipulative and abusive, and her behavior caused her son to retreat within himself. Mr. Butler's father left the family when Bill was only ten years old and times grew dark for the young boy. On a bleak day in 1964, at a point when fourteen-year-old Bill was feeling particularly forlorn, a social worker knocked on the door to take him to the Connecticut Junior Republic.

"That social worker knocking on my door was the best thing that ever happened to me," Mr. Butler recalled, "although I didn't realize it at the time," he noted.

When Bill arrived at CJR, he felt lost and lonely. During his first night on campus, Mr. Butler was tasked with sweeping the parking lot—a responsibility he never had before—with a boy he hardly knew. "You might not have liked what you had to do, but you had to do it to serve the Republic and be a part of something bigger than yourself," he said.

Early on, Bill was asked what vocational course he would like to take and immediately knew that he wanted to work in the woodshop. Although he started small by making a wooden duck, Bill was soon able to craft end and coffee tables to use in his room. After graduating

from CJR, he gave these pieces of furniture to his mother, who treasured them for many years.

Instrumental to Bill's success was the kindness and guidance of the Elsemores, a caring couple who were his group parents. As group parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elsemore oversaw many of the boys' chores and responsibilities in Hartford Group. "The boys rarely knocked on the Elsemores' door for help, but we knew that if we needed something, they would be there for us," Mr. Butler said.

Bill credits much of his drive to succeed to Mr. Alvord, an English teacher at the Junior Republic who became a good friend to Mr. Butler. "Mr. Alvord really made each relationship with his students unique and dealt with every boy as an individual. He was more than a teacher; he was a friend and a father figure," explained Mr. Butler.

One of Bill's most cherished memories of his teacher was the day Mr. Alvord offered to give him a ride around Litchfield in his new MG sports car. During their travels around town, Mr. Alvord asked Bill if he liked the car, and he answered yes.

"If you do well in school, you can get a nice car like this!" Mr. Alvord said. "Great," Bill replied, "but I want a Mustang!"

In addition to being the genesis of Bill's dream to own a Mustang, the ride with Mr. Alvord inspired Bill to get involved and work harder. Bill frequently volunteered to produce copies of the *Junior Citizen* during exceptionally busy times of the year, and it was in the newsletter that Bill read about other successful students and aspired to be like them.

Seeking community, he joined the CJR football team. Bill played offensive and defensive center during the 1965 season and described the team nostalgically as a "Bad News Bears" type of group. The team had old, dirty jerseys and never won a game the entire season, Bill recalled, "but that didn't stop us from trying our best and hoping to win the next game!" he chuckled.

When Bill was a student at CJR, boys lived in groups tiered One through Five, with newcomers starting in Four. Through hard work in the CJR community and success in school, students moved into higher groups and enjoyed more responsibilities and privileges, such as frequent trips into Litchfield, more highly skilled jobs and chores, and single bedrooms. Bill made it his goal to get placed in Group One.

Not long into Bill's second year, he met the requirements to be placed in Group One and enjoyed his new place of honor. He fondly recalled his single room, which was an upgrade from the room he shared with multiple boys in Hartford Cottage. Unfortunately, Bill lost his privileged status when he arrived at class late one day and was demoted to Group Two. "Rules are rules," Bill told his CJR peers. Fortunately, the demotion only lasted two weeks and he was grateful to his peers for voting his return to the single room in Hartford Cottage.

Mr. Butler became such a successful and helpful member of the CJR community that he was elected "Duke of Campus" by his peers. The title recognized his prominence on campus and granted him new benefits. Some newer students were intimidated by Bill's success, but he would always tell them, "I'm like you, I've just been here longer."

Following Bill's graduation from CJR in 1966, he went back home and worked at a local supermarket. This was short-lived, and Bill credits his time learning to be independent and disciplined at CJR for his choice and ability to leave home.

Bill was drafted by the U.S. Army in 1969 and served under the Americal Division in Vietnam. "I wouldn't have made it through basic training without the skills I learned at CJR," he stated. Due to an incident with a land mine, Bill was medevacked in 1970 and left the Army in July 1971. That same year, he married his first wife, with whom he had one son. After working various jobs, including installing chandeliers and a brief stint working for an ambulance company, Bill decided to go back into the Army in 1974 and served until 1986 when he was medically discharged due to old injuries.

Upon return to civilian life, Bill became involved with real estate, divorced his first wife, and in 1988, while closing a house sale, met his second wife, Diane—known as Dee—to whom he is happily married. When they married later that year, Bill adopted Diane's daughter. His success in selling real estate was recognized with awards in 1987 and 1988, years he reached over \$1 million in sales.

After a lucrative career in real estate, Mr. Butler bought a house in Florida in 2005 and retired there with his wife in 2010. He bought his dream car in 2015—a new black Mustang. His wife grew envious and decided to purchase her own bright yellow 2015 Mustang. Today, the Butlers enjoy shopping at flea markets, walking in parks, and watching surfers at local beaches. Of all his accomplishments, Mr. Butler is most proud of his marriage, which he describes as "work that has paid off." According to Mr. Butler, he and Dee "take care of each other." He also appreciates that his wife "is an excellent cook!"

Mr. Butler credits the health of his marriage to listening to his wife and being willing to work their problems out. "It's a relief to finally come out of that dark, dysfunctional mindset and family I grew up

around and to have the skills to make my own marriage work," he said with pride.

Mr. Butler has returned to Litchfield at least six times since being a CJR student and is impressed by how the campus has grown and changed. "When I was there, all we really had for entertainment was the pond. These days, the kids have their own swimming pool!" he commented.

Mr. Butler brought his son with him to CJR on one of his first visits, and after taking in the campus, the boy asked if his father would ever send him to a place like the Junior Republic. Mr. Butler looked at his son with compassion in his eyes and replied, "Yes, I would, if you needed it."

Mr. Butler advises young people facing difficulties today 'to find your Mr. Alford.' "Find someone you trust and who can help you understand the difference between truth and fallacy," he said.



Mr. Butler and his dream car, the Mustang.

"At CJR, I escaped my dark past and rose like a phoenix, taking hold of the hope that every staff member offered me," Mr. Butler said. "The opportunities to excel and grow at CJR gave me purpose and the tools I needed to take care of myself."

Mr. Butler was interviewed for this article by CJR Communications and Development Associate, Kyle Venditti.

CJR Invitational Nears \$1.5 Million in Net Proceeds Raised



CJR Invitational Chair Robert G. Phelan pictured with Prize Chair Jennifer Parsons.

The 23rd annual **CJR Invitational** Golf Benefit will be held on Monday, June 18, at the Torrington Country Club. Robert G. Phelan of Avon, Chairman and CEO of TriPoint, a performance-based insurance company, is Chair of the event. Gregory S. Oneglia of Litchfield, Vice Chairman of O&G Industries, Connecticut's largest, privately held construction company, is Founding Chair. Both Mr. Oneglia and Mr. Phelan are members of the Junior Republic's Board of Directors. The following individuals are Vice Chairs of this year's Planning Committee:

- John F. Boyd of Litchfield, Community Involvement
- Bill Dranginis of Litchfield, Golf
- Jennifer Parsons of Litchfield, Prizes and Promotion
- Louisa Roraback of Goshen, Volunteers
- Jessica O. Travelstead, of Litchfield, Sponsors

TriPoint is the event's \$10,000 Diamond Sponsor, and the Mitchell Auto Group will donate an automobile for a Hole in One contest. Celebrity participants for the day include NBC-30 news anchor Gerry Brooks and meteorologist Bob Maxon.

According to Founding Chair Gregory Oneglia, this year's net proceeds are anticipated to bring cumulative funds raised through the event to nearly \$1.5 million. All monies raised will benefit the approximately 2,000 at-risk, special needs and troubled children, youth and families that the Junior Republic serves annually through 13 program sites across Connecticut.

The **CJR Invitational** was established by Mr. Oneglia in 1996. He chaired the event for ten years and Mr. Phelan became chairman in 2006 and has served in this capacity since that time.

Mr. Phelan expressed particular gratitude to this year's event sponsors, a number of which have supported the benefit annually since its inception. "We are very fortunate to have such loyal and generous participants," he stated. "This event has been extraordinarily successful for the past 22 years. The 2017 benefit raised nearly \$82,000 in net proceeds—one of the three best years ever," he said.



Founding Chair Gregory S. Oneglia.

Sponsors Chair Jessica Travelstead anticipates that the 2018 CJR Invitational will be sold out. "We expect to have a full field of golfers again this year," she noted.

CJR Executive Director Daniel Rezende paid special tribute to the members of the event's volunteer team for their service. "The leadership of our chairs and Planning Committee has ensured the longevity and continued success of this benefit," he said.

CJR School Turns Blue for Autism Awareness Month



CAVEC students participated in a month-long Penny War fundraiser to support Freedom Service Dogs of America.

April was Autism Awareness Month and the boys at the Junior Republic's Cable Academic and Vocational Education Center (CAVEC) in Litchfield promoted compassion, teamwork and inclusion through a variety of activities.

A Penny War kicked off festivities for students and staff. Initially suggested by CJR students, the Penny War was a great success. For the duration of the month of April, boys on two teams brought in various coins, including pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters, as part of this fundraiser. Members of the CAVEC staff pledged to match funds raised by the boys during this celebration.

In addition to the Penny Wars fundraiser, the CAVEC boys also participated in a "Spirit Week" full of activities. Spirit Week took place between April 23-27, and the students participated in five themed events: Memorable Monday; Teams Tuesday; Wacky Socks Wednesday; Twinning Thursday; and Blue Friday for Autism Awareness. The week culminated in an ice cream social party for the students at the end of the month, and a total of \$368.40 was raised.

CJR students decided that funds raised by the Penny War would support Freedom Service Dogs of America. This nonprofit trains shelter dogs to help people in need, such as children, veterans and active duty service members with varying abilities and disabilities.

Started in 1970 by the Autism Society, National Autism Awareness Month runs annually throughout April as a means of educating communities and raising awareness about autism.

Roughly 20 to 30 percent of all CAVEC students in Litchfield are on the autism spectrum, so the holiday is a natural fit and has been observed by the school for close to ten years. In past years, students have decorated and hung blue gourds in trees around the school, and tie-dyed blue tee shirts. The color blue is associated with autism awareness because of the *Light It Up Blue* campaign, which encourages participants to use blue lights to observe autism awareness.

"We serve a significant number of students on the autism spectrum and our resources on the Litchfield campus are particularly therapeutic for these young people," stated James K. Obst, CJR Director of Education and Student Services. "The spaciousness of campus contributes to a sense of well-being for our autistic students," he noted, "and some of our classes, such as vocational agriculture, are particularly suited to students



CAVEC students wore puzzle bracelets throughout April for Autism Awareness Month.

with differences in sensory perception and social skills," he continued. Mr. Obst expressed special gratitude to the Bachmann Family Charitable Fund for its important annual grants to provide services such as in-home consultation, staff development and education and special events to benefit CJR students with autism and their families.

CJR's New Britain Programs Collaborate on New Event

On Friday, November 2, from 6:00 to 9:00 PM CJR's New Britain community programs will host a wine, craft beer and spirits tasting event at the St. Thomas Cultural Center Ballroom, which offers ample space and parking. The event will feature an array of wines and spirits provided by local merchants and craft breweries, and a silent auction. Admission will be \$30 in advance and \$35 on the night of the event.

According to Ana Flamengo, CJR Director of Community Programs, all proceeds raised through the event will be used to provide crisis funds and wraparound services for CJR programs in New Britain helping children and families with critical needs. The Junior Republic's New Britain program sites include 29 Russell Street and 145 Whiting Street, and serve nearly 300 boys and girls, ages 5 to 19, and their families, annually.

A committee of staff are working diligently to obtain items for the silent auction and all contributions are greatly appreciated.

New Britain Wine, Craft Beer and Spirits Tasting

St. Thomas Cultural Center Ballroom

Friday, November 2, 2018
6:00 to 9:00 PM.

\$30 in Advance; \$35 at the door

Ample parking for guests

For more information about CJR's New Britain Wine Tasting event, please contact Jessica Bell, L.M.S.W., at: 860-357-4495.

TRIBUTES

The following tributes were received between April 1, 2017 and May 3, 2018. These contributions honor the memory of the departed and celebrate special friendships and occasions, while helping CJR transform the lives of children and families.

IN MEMORY OF:

Mr. Andrew Bachmann
Bachmann Family Charitable Fund

Ms. Inge Besha
Ms. Dianne Andriski-Gott

Mr. David S. Chapin
Ms. Marian Hurlbut

Lorraine Chargin
Anonymous
Mr. Donald N. Chargin

Jo and Bill Cody
Ms. Rita Cody

Mr. Jason Cruz
Ms. Margarita Vargas

Dorothy
Mr. Michael J. Baransky

Mr. Terry Girouard
Mrs. Catherine Girouard

Fred and Ethel Gross
The Ferrari and Young Families

Mr. David T. Guernsey
Mrs. Lewis C. Kleinhans III

Mr. George Hadoulis
CAVEC Staff

Mr. Myron P. Hardy
Mrs. Myron P. Hardy

Mr. Owen S. Hart
Sue B. Hart Foundation

Ms. Jeanette Jaffer
Mr. Tony Jaffer

Mrs. Pamela Johnson
James J. Johnson, Ed.D.

Mr. Thomas P. Kellogg, Jr.
Ms. Susan L. Galati

Mrs. Marilyn A. Kennedy
Mr. Philip J. Kennedy

Mr. John Krinitsky
Mrs. John Krinitsky

Mr. John Kucinkas
Mrs. John Kucinkas

Mr. Louis Kuslan
Mrs. Louis Kuslan

Mr. John E. Luby
Mrs. Agnes M. Luby

Mrs. Eileen J. Newcomb
Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell Solomon

**Mr. Bernard and
Mrs. Catherine Noland**
Mrs. Catherine Girouard

Ms. Gertrude Olsen
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony D. Molusis

Mr. Thomas E. Parkin
Ms. Jean P. Mariano

Mr. William A. Raccio
Mr. Jeremy Raccio and
Ms. Sadia Halim

Mrs. Ada H. Reyes
Rep. and Mrs. Geraldo C. Reyes

Mr. Joseph Rothenbacher
Ms. Ophra E. Cohen
Ms. Jennifer N. Eriksen
Mr. and Mrs. Gregory R. Horne
Mr. Jeffrey Lipkin
Ms. Mindi LoCicero
Mr. Jason Marti
Ms. Pia Poolsaar
Ms. Anita T. Reichert
Mr. Robert Sholtes
Mrs. Marion Wilson

Mrs. Laura "Tish" Samponaro
Mr. Philip G. Samponaro

Rose and Anthony Scalzo
Mrs. Raffaella Ann Hourin

Mr. Ronald J. Schmitt
Mrs. Ronald J. Schmitt

Mr. John M. Schneider
Paul D. Schneider, Esq.

Mr. John L. Sullivan III
Mrs. Clarice E. Sullivan

Mr. Kenneth F. Thoman
Mrs. Kenneth F. Thoman

Mrs. Paul C. VanDyke
Mrs. Paul C. VanDyke

Mr. Harold F. Waterman
Mr. Mark W. Waterman

IN HONOR OF:

**Kevin and Carolyn Barnes and
their children, Matt and Amelia**
Mr. and Mrs. Ted Somes

Mr. Peter Bizzozaro
Dr. and Mrs. O.J. Bizzozero, Jr.

Mr. John F. Boyd
Ms. Nancy Waite

Benjamin and Betty Katzin
Ms. Charlotte Katzin

Mr. Gregory S. Oneglia
Mr. and Mrs. Brewster B. Perkins
Union Savings Bank

Mrs. Ada H. Reyes
Rep. and Mrs. Geraldo C. Reyes

Litchfield Aid Continues Support of CJR and Plans Upcoming Events



Patricia Hearn, President of The Litchfield Aid of CJR, presents The Aid's 2017 contribution to CJR Board President Declan Murphy.

Founded in 1911 for the sole purpose of supporting the Connecticut Junior Republic, The Litchfield Aid of CJR is a volunteer auxiliary organization that continues its mission through the efforts of a talented and dedicated membership of approximately 100 individuals from the community. Aid members provide leadership as goodwill ambassadors and play a significant role in providing financial support to many of the academic, vocational and well-being programs provided by CJR.

At its annual meeting in October of 2017, The Aid presented a check of nearly \$72,000 to CJR Board President, Declan Murphy, which included net proceeds from the *Horses and Hats in the Hills* benefit, held in May of that year, as well as member contributions and funds from The Aid's endowment. This gift supported a number of programs, including the CJR Wellness Center, the Cable Academic and Vocational Education Center, and scholarships for students associated with CJR's residential and education programs on the Litchfield campus.

UPCOMING EVENTS

In 2018, The Aid's benefit event will be *High Spirits in the Hills*, a wine, craft beer and spirits tasting to be held on Saturday, September 8, from 6:00 to 9:00 PM at the Woodridge Lake Club House. Curated by the Litchfield Hills Wine Market and the Litchfield Distillery, this "cocktail casual" event will feature a silent auction, music by the Switch Factory, and delicious fare from Ciesco Catering. Participation by advance reservation only. For more information, please contact the CJR Development Office: 860-567-9423, ext. 278.



The Aid will also conduct its delectable bake sale at the *Cars for Kids* Automobile Show. In 2017, this endeavor raised more than \$800 in net proceeds, which boosted the Car Show's net proceeds to nearly \$25,000.

HOUSE TOUR PLANNED FOR 2019

The Litchfield Aid will conduct a signature house tour in 2019 and planning is already in full swing. After a five year respite, The Aid is organizing the 67th Open House Day Tour and Garden Stroll in celebration of the Town of Litchfield's 300th Anniversary. The event will consist of a Preview Tour and Party on Friday, July 12th and a full-day Tour on Saturday, July 13th. More details will be announced later this year.



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Litchfield, CT 06759
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ctjuniorrepublic.org

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VALUES: CJR believes that if given the opportunity, every young person has the potential to develop the skills, self-discipline and social responsibility necessary for a rewarding and worthwhile life. CJR values every family as a critical partner in the treatment process. The agency believes that whenever possible, it is most desirable to work with young people and their families within their own communities. When out-of-home services are required, the family must be valued and included as an important and equal partner in the treatment process.



Photo Contributions: Max Arzu, Chayne Ashe, Amy Bartok, Bill Butler, Eric Elwell, Brooke Greeley, Brittany Maziarz, Joanne Medina, Tina Roulin, Amelia Shannon, Fran Spencer, Amanda Syzmanski and Kyle Venditti.

Junior Citizen Design: Kyle Venditti