



THANKS AND GIVING TO CLUB FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY

After a 2-year hiatus, Grenville Baker Boys & Girls Club was overjoyed to open our doors on Tuesday, November 22 to offer the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner to the community once again. With great efforts, enthusiasm, and the assistance of close to three dozen volunteers who supplied the side dishes and served the meal, we provided a hot Thanksgiving meal to approximately 220 guests including Club members, families, and members of the local community.

This event was made possible with the support and contributions made by the Brookville Country Club for cooking 15 turkeys with gravy, the Locust Valley Market for fresh baked cornbread, and Locust Valley Deli and Country Plaza Deli for providing a staple to every thanksgiving meal, the mashed potatoes.

This giving extended past our in-Club dinner to the homes of 75 Club families. Families received a basket with all the trimmings and a gift card to a local grocery store. The Keystone members, under the direction of Teen Program Director Stephanie Urio, are feeling thankful for the opportunity to help put together these food baskets for Club families. These baskets are quite meaningful to the families this time of year to not only use towards preparing a holiday meal, but also to stock their pantries. We could not have done this without the many donors who supported the drive, and to many board members who referred friends to make a basket or a donation. *A special thank you to Bea Frascilla of Best Farms Markets for assisting with the acquisition of the bulk items needed and for donating fresh chickens for the baskets and supplying turkeys for our Club Dinner.*



TORCH CLUB PROTECTING THE OYSTERS IN THE BAY

Did you know that there are not as many oysters in the harbor as there used to be? When settled, Oyster Bay was named due to the vast amount of these mollusks that were found in the bay. The Town of Oyster Bay has been working diligently to put the “oyster” back in Oyster Bay as these shellfish play a pivotal role in the local ecosystem through their primary function of filtering water to remove plankton, algae, and other particles which results in cleaner, healthier water. The town has been growing oysters, on the backs of other oysters, to return into the bay.



On November 7th, in partnership with Kids in Nature, members of our Torch Club spent time in the bay learning about and assisting with animal conservation work. Representatives from the Department of Environmental Resources educated the kids about the importance of oyster spawning and conservation efforts. They learned how to identify and oysters received hands-on experience with how to properly harvest and collect oysters on the beach.

The Torch Club is a nationally chartered leadership and service club for tweens who perform numerous service projects throughout the year. Club members help younger members with homework, assist at community events, donate time to local cleanups and animal shelters, raising money through raffles and walks for various causes such as suicide prevention and service dogs. Tweens elect officers and choose their own projects.

READING HAS GONE TO THE DOGS!



‘Reading with Nella’ has become a Club favorite among our younger members. This amazing opportunity is brought to the Club by volunteer Ms. Leslie. Once a week, Ms. Leslie and her licensed therapy dog, Nella, visit the Club for a reading session. The children enjoy the chance to sit with Nella and take turns reading a book to her. Reading aloud can be a challenge for some children, increasing feelings of intimidation or anxiety, in-turn impacting their reading ability. For these children, reading to a dog gives them a sense of comfort, nonjudgement, and trust to do so, building their self-confidence and reading skills. Nella is very patient and sweet to all of our members, and it is wonderful to see how the kids interact with her. **Thank you to Ms. Leslie for bringing this wonderful program to us!**

Learn more and stay in touch by visiting
www.gbbgc.org or follow us on social @grenvillebaker



**GRENVILLE BAKER
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.



“Power Hour” is a comprehensive homework assistance and tutoring program offered here at the Club that provides the support, resources, and guidance necessary for our members to complete their assignments, allowing them to start each school day with a sense of confidence and ability. For our kids, and teens, we provide a safe, caring, and consistent time and place in which to complete their homework, and those in need of extra academic help are provided one-on-one support by our talented and committed staff and volunteers. Additionally, we also help children whose first language is not English to enjoy and become more proficient in the English language. For two members this program has already proven to be of great support so early in the school year. Both Jaden and Alexandra did not speak English and were quite shy. They were hesitant to participate in activities with the group despite staff member Meylin’s best efforts to help them feel comfortable. Jaden and Alexandra needed one-

on-one help to do their homework. In the beginning, it took much encouragement and prompting to get them started, however after just a few short weeks, Meylin has noticed how Jaden and Alexandra have changed. Now, they take out their homework by themselves, try to speak English to Meylin and the kids, and they are participating in all the activities. Even though it is still a little hard for them, they try their best to understand and actively communicate with staff and the other Club kids. Seeing how they have become more independent, and more capable of finishing their homework on their own and interacting with other kids in their group makes us all feel proud.

The success of our Homework Help program would not be possible without our wonderful program supporters Angela & Scott Jaggar Foundation, Education Comes First, and the Town of Oyster Bay.



POWERING THROUGH HOMEWORK AT THE CLUB

PASSPORT TO MANHOOD

Led by Club alumnus and staff member, Matt C., Passport to Manhood is a health and wellness program that promotes and teaches responsibility in Club boys ages 8-17. Passport to Manhood represents a targeted effort to engage young men in discussions activities that reinforce positive behavior. Navigating the path to becoming independent young adults can be overwhelming for young men and the sessions tackle topics including the importance of healthy eating, self-esteem, hygiene, and fitness to encourage them in making positive choices. Sessions are a combination of discussions, hands-

on activities, and field trip experiences. To help build the sense of community for the boys, they attended a Mets Game in October (even though it got rained out!). These middle schoolers look forward to continuing in the program and for the next opportunity to get to do something fun together.



PREPARING CLUB TEENS FOR GREAT FUTURES



The group was provided an incredible opportunity to attend an information session to learn about the history of the college, campus life, academic pathways available, and how the application process works. They were also taken on a student led tour of the beautiful riverfront campus. They are all very excited to attend more college tours in the future and knowing that there is such high demand to go, they all are committed to putting in the hard work and efforts to assure they will be eligible.

In addition to college campus visits, the College Prep program at the Grenville Baker Boys & Girls Club includes SAT classes, essay writing skills development, assistance with college applications and financial aid forms, and admission interview training. Our staff and network of mentors remain committed to the success of our Club Alumni even when they make their transition to college.

Preparing our teens for all the possibilities in the world following graduation is a key goal for our staff. In today's world, graduating from high school and obtaining a college degree can make all the difference in young person's future. With the start of the school year, we have seen an increase in the enrollment for high school students. Many of our new program members are interested in going to college but had never had the chance to visit a college or even know how to start the process or how to get there. This past September during school holiday break, a group of our teens explored Marist College in Poughkeepsie.



Our College Prep program would not be possible without the support of The Jones Fund, Frederic R. Coudert Foundation, Long Island Community Foundation, Big Guy Foundation and The Glowatz Family.

BOOKS AND BUDDIES

Literacy Development is a pillar of our program here at the Club. Following the pause of external program offerings, we were eager to resume our Library Club this fall. We are pleased to be partnering once again with the Locust Valley Library, to provide this program to our members.

Like our many continued initiatives that promote volunteerism and positive impacts on others, in Library Club our Club members are paired with middle/high schoolers to practice their reading skills. This partnership not only supports our members' academic success, but also gives some local middle and high school students an opportunity to give back and to serve as mentors with younger children.

