February 2025

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GRENVILLE BAKER BOYS & GIRLS CLUB



On February 5th, Grenville Baker Boys & Girls Club hosted its third annual "Guest Bartender Night" at The Marker Restaurant in Glen Cove, bringing together over 250 community members for an unforgettable evening of fun, philanthropy, and fantastic cocktails.

The event featured several guest bartender teams, each adding their own flair and personality behind the bar. Liz McGoldrick and Regina Ciardullo, Danielle Smith and Krystina Tomlinson, and Chris Lordi and Roly Nesi stepped up to shake, stir, and serve guests with delicious drinks, all in the name of supporting a great cause.

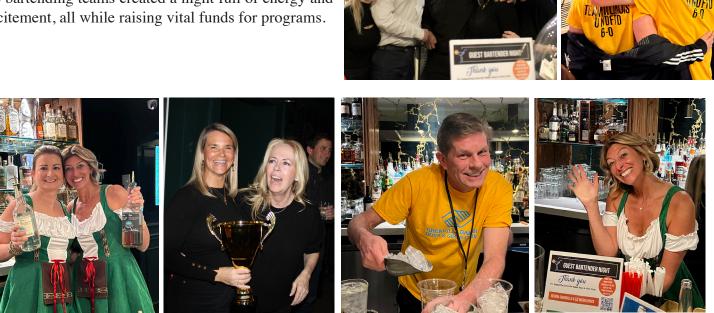
With every cocktail poured, guests not only enjoyed delectable bites and refreshing beverages, but they also contributed to the ongoing mission of the Club. The lively atmosphere and friendly competition among the bartending teams created a night full of energy and excitement, all while raising vital funds for programs.

THIRD ANNUAL GUEST BARTENDING EVENT

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After a spirited competition, Liz and Regina were crowned the winners, but the true victor of the night was the Club itself. The event raised nearly \$30,000, which will go directly toward supporting the programs and services that benefit so many young people in the community.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended, volunteered, and made this night a resounding success. With your support, Grenville Baker Boys & Girls Club is able to continue providing invaluable resources to our youth, ensuring they have the opportunities they deserve to succeed.





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KEYSTONE CLUB GIVES BACK ON LUNAR NEW YEAR

While many students enjoyed a break from school for Lunar New Year, members of the Keystone Club used their day off to give back to the community. The group spent the day volunteering at the Mary Brennan Soup Kitchen in Hempstead, assisting with meal service, food pantry organization, and preparations for an upcoming coat distribution.

Arriving early in the morning, the teens immediately got to work, helping set up for the daily lunch service. They also sorted donated food for the pantry, ensuring items were properly organized for families in need. Additionally, they helped prepare for a coat distribution event scheduled for later in the week, ensuring warm clothing would be available for those who need it most. Even after hours of standing, lifting, and cleaning, the volunteers remained enthusiastic. They took on every task with energy and teamwork, finishing the day by clearing tables, sweeping floors, and sanitizing the dining area. Despite the physically demanding work, their dedication never wavered. Staff members at the soup kitchen praised their commitment, noting that the teens continuously asked, "What else can we do?"

The Keystone Club, a leadership and service-based program for teens, regularly engages in community service projects that promote civic responsibility. Their efforts at the Mary Brennan Soup Kitchen exemplify their mission to make a positive impact.



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



Grenville Baker Boys & Girls Club • 135 Forest Avenue • Locust Valley NY 11560



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THE CLUB ADVOCATES FOR KEY FUNDING AT NEW YORK STATE CAPITOL

Teens and staff from the Grenville Baker Boys & Girls Club traveled to Albany to participate in Legislative Day, an event organized by the New York State Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs. During their visit, they met with state legislators to advocate for increased funding for programs addressing food insecurity and mental health.

Four Club teens, along with staff members, held scheduled meetings with Senator Jack Martins and Assembly Members Charles Lavine and Jake Blumencranz. They shared personal stories about the impact of the Boys & Girls Club and urged lawmakers to support additional resources for these critical initiatives.

"It was nice to step out of my comfort zone and talk to people I don't know to discuss really important issues that will impact the Club," said Alexandra G., one of the participating teens.



Throughout the day, the teens spoke passionately about their experiences at the Club, emphasizing the urgent need for state funding to support food programs and mental health services. With budget discussions currently underway, they made a strong case for why these resources are essential for youth across New York.

The visit concluded with a special recognition on the Assembly floor, where both staff and teens were introduced. Their participation in Legislative Day highlights the power of youth advocacy and the importance of ensuring vital programs remain funded for the future.

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One of the most exciting aspects of the basketball program is back as Instructional Basketball officially tipped off mid January. With 110 kindergarten through second-grade members enrolled across six practice sessions, these young athletes will spend the next eight weeks building fundamental basketball skills.

While second graders returning for another season were eager to jump straight into scrimmages, the program began with a focus on dribbling, passing, and under-



INSTRUCTIONAL BASKETBALL KICKS OFF, GIVING YOUNG PLAYERS A STRONG START

standing the rules of the game. Coaches also introduced key basketball terminology, ensuring players develop a strong foundation.

Beyond skill development, the program aims to foster a love for basketball, encouraging participants to continue into the Club league as they grow. Thanks to the dedication of the staff, players are not only learning but also having a great time on the court.



2024 Tax Receipts ~ We are so grateful to our supporters without whom none of these life-changing programs would be possible. If you need another copy of a receipt from 2024, please email Kimona Kousins at kimona.kousins@gbbgc.org.