



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB  
OF REDDING-EASTON**

## *Do You Know What We Do?*

November 2017

### **Dear Club Members, Friends and Neighbors,**

It has been a good but challenging year for the Boys & Girls Club of Redding-Easton. We have continued to deliver quality sports programs, middle school and high school community service programs, and make improvements to our fields. Our financial challenge has been greater due to state budget cutbacks impacting the nominal amount of state grant funding we receive.

Your financial support will help us to meet this challenge to keep our program fees affordable for all our members and to provide scholarships for those in need. We look forward to your continued support and want you to know what we do with your contributions.

**OUR MISSION:** “To enable the young people of Redding and Easton to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens and to be a positive force for good in our community.”

- ✓ **We serve more than 700 kids each year** through our sports and community service programs.
- ✓ Our Sports Programs include: **Redding Little League Baseball (RLL) & Challenger Little League Program; Redding-Easton Softball (RESB); Redding-Easton Basketball (REBA); Redding-Easton Field Hockey; Redding-Easton Wrestling Club; and BGCRE Tennis.**
- ✓ Our Community Service programs include the **Keystone Club** for high school age teens and the **Torch Club** for middle schoolers. These programs provide more opportunities than ever for kids to serve, learn and lead.
- ✓ We host an annual post-parade **Memorial Day BBQ** for the entire community.
- ✓ **We maintain an 8-acre field complex and Clubhouse facility.** Our fields are the only Little League, Cal Ripken, and Babe Ruth baseball fields in the town of Redding and are acknowledged to be among the best in our area.
- ✓ We do all this with a **staff of just one full and two part-time employees, plus dozens of dedicated volunteers** who coach our teams, serve on our board and committees, and staff our events.
- ✓ **We cover the majority of our operating expenses each year through program fees,** which we try hard not to raise to avoid discouraging participation.



2017 **Keystone Club** activities and service programs include: an annual **Spelling Bee** for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders; **Snow Shoveling for Seniors**; **Tree Musketeers** to help provide Christmas for those in need; **Food and Coat Drives**; and the **Be Smart Don't Start** anti-vaping campaign.



2017 Torch Club service projects include: **Fundraising for Smilow Cancer Center; Meal service at the Westport Kitchen; Fairfield Beach Cleanup; Packing “Weekend Food Backpacks” at the CT Food Bank; Ornament and tile painting for Bens Bells; Packing food bags for the Basket Brigade in New Haven; and helping to set up and run the Artisan Fair at RES.**

- ✓ **Our annual budget is right around \$425,000** – which we fund through program fees (62%), local donations and fundraising activities (31%) and state grant money (7%).
- ✓ **WE RECEIVE NO FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE TOWN**, and we expect the small amount of state grant money we receive to be cut again this year by at least 25% due to the state budget situation.

It is estimated that American kids ages 8-18 spend an average of 9 hours per day looking at a screen. Today it is more important than ever to provide positive alternatives for kids at a reasonable cost which we have been doing for more than 78 years. **We hope that you agree and that is why we are asking you to PLEASE HELP SUPPORT OUR PROGRAMS.**

What we can do is up to you. The funds we raise are essential for maintaining and improving our programs, facility, and fulfilling our mission. Please use the enclosed reply envelope to send a contribution today or go to [www.SupportBGCRE.com](http://www.SupportBGCRE.com) and use the Donate Now Button. **Please help us make sure that our “positive place for kids” stays strong this year and for years to come. Thanks!**

*Michael P. Dobbins*  
Michael Dobbins, President

*Joseph P. Dolan*  
Joseph Dolan, Executive Director

**BGCRE Board Members**

Jim Castonguay, Rich Colangelo, Dave Corr, Greg Fischer, Steve Gagnon, Mary Beth Gilbert, Chris Rotondo, Linda Mitchell

**BGCRE Professional Staff**

Joseph Dolan, Executive Director; Peri Bartro, Club Administrator