

The Corner

A Place to Go...A Way to Grow



Spring 2013

Mission Moment

The first time Rachel Hair (a Saint Louis University Federal Work-Study student) challenged Tommy to write a short story, it was like pulling teeth. She had to sit next to him and drag every word from him. He produced a two-sentence story.

After a few weeks of working with Rachel, Tommy was ready to try creating another story. Armed with a better grasp of reading and writing, Tommy wrote a page and a half and was still going. Rachel had to encourage him to stop writing so he could eat his snack.

Once Tommy gained these literary skills, he realized that he actually enjoyed writing his own stories! Rachel and GSBC's Literacy Program empowered Tommy to discover a love for writing and realize his intellectual potential to further his success.

Mission

To enable boys in the St. Louis metropolitan area, especially those who need us most, to realize their physical, intellectual, and emotional potential.

Same Vision...New Look

As you may have noticed, the Gene Slay's Boys' Club of St. Louis (GSBC) has recently experienced a facelift. Everyone here is really excited about the strides we are making to enhance our programs, renovate our building, and spread our message to the community. We have a new logo, a completely new website (www.geneslaysboysclub.org), and this brand new newsletter, The

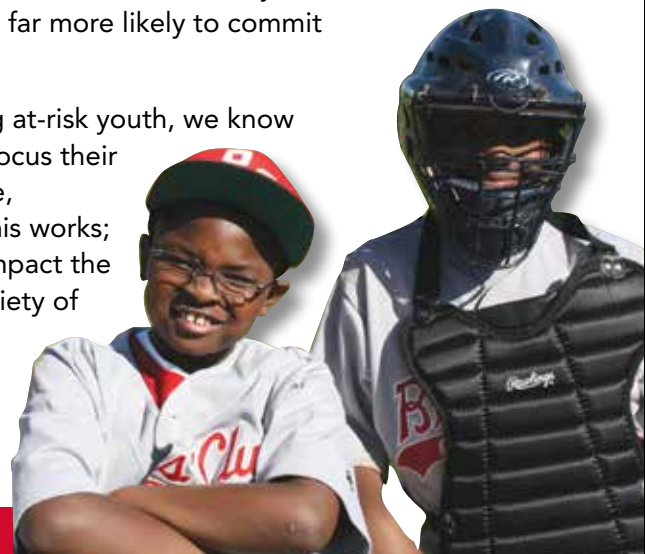


Corner. This new look shows that we are determined to continue providing the highest quality, holistic programs possible to at-risk youth who reside in South St. Louis. Come see what's going on in our "Corner" of St. Louis!

Through a process of research and strategic planning, our Board reacted to a greater than ever need to expand and enhance our programs. Many of our boys are at-risk for academic failure, gang involvement, negative health outcomes, and violence. Many of the areas served by GSBC are inner-city neighborhoods populated by low-income families who encounter numerous economic, health, and social service barriers, high dropout rates, and neighborhood crime. Our enhanced curriculum addresses these needs.

Children from low-income households are seven times more likely to drop out of school than their higher income peers, more likely to be among the one in four Missouri youth who are food insecure, are far more likely to become parents in their teen years, and are far more likely to commit a violent crime.

Throughout our 84 years of serving at-risk youth, we know that there is an on going need to focus their talents and abilities into productive, skill-building activities. We know this works; our alumni have and continue to impact the St. Louis metropolitan area in a variety of leadership roles. GSBC strives to prepare the next generation to lead the community. ■





A Message from the Director

"We believe that you are the cornerstone of the success of our programs."



Hello Friends,

Recently, our Board, staff, and stakeholders completed an extensive strategic planning process and developed the new five-year plan for the Club. In addition to improving and increasing our programs to better fulfill our mission, we identified communication with you, our supporters, as a priority. The Boys' Club has a rich history, a vibrant present, and an even brighter future.

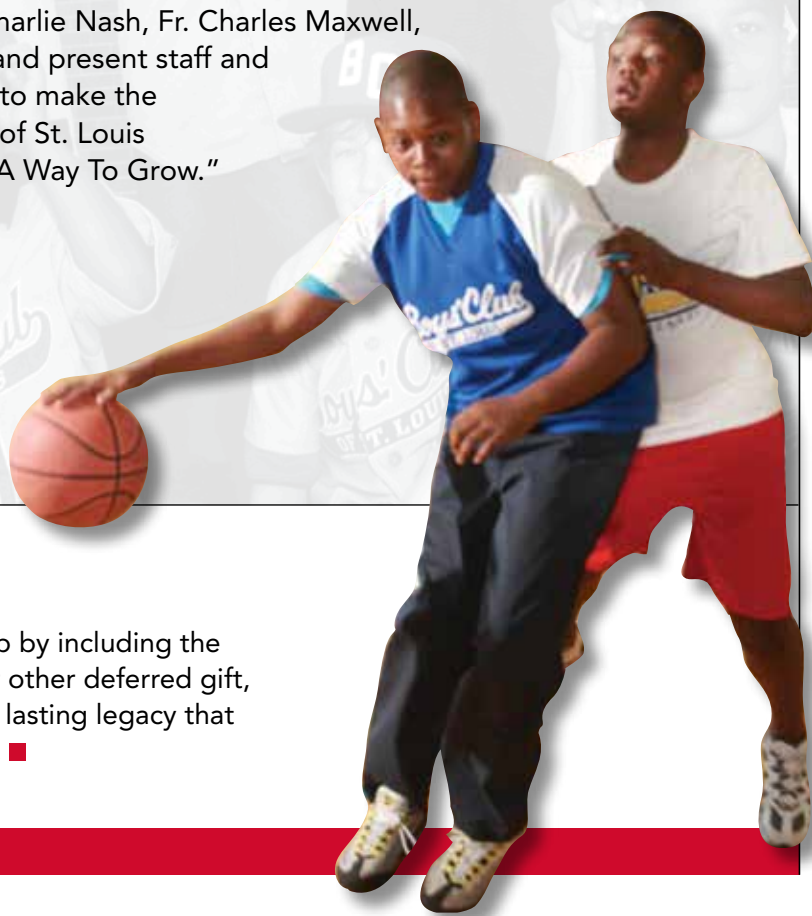
We developed this newsletter, updated the website, and created all of the other new materials that are going to begin circulating over the next year or so to help articulate our story to you. We believe that our programs and our results speak for themselves, but this publication will try to provide you with a glimpse of the amazing things that happen here each and every day.

We know that every child has the potential to do great things. We know that no child wants to remain trapped in an endless cycle of poverty. The Gene Slay's Boys' Club has devoted itself to evolving with St. Louis, and we need your help to ensure that the Club will always exist as a resource for youth.

If you have fallen out of touch with the Boys' Club, for whatever reason, now is the time to reengage with the mission. Our community, city, and country are in dire need of the competent, compassionate leaders produced by the Club. We welcome you to join our efforts and the legacies of Gene Slay, Ken Wild, Charlie Nash, Fr. Charles Maxwell, and thousands of past and present staff and supporters to continue to make the Gene Slay's Boys' Club of St. Louis truly, "A Place To Go...A Way To Grow."

Sincerely,

Tom Wild



Make a Planned Gift Today

Help ensure the future of the Gene Slay's Boys' Club by including the Club in your estate plan. Through your will, trust, or other deferred gift, you can enjoy financial benefits now while leaving a lasting legacy that will benefit Club members for generations to come. ■



Come and Take a Tour

Our mission is to enable boys in the St. Louis metropolitan area, especially those who need us most, to realize their physical, intellectual, and emotional potential. We know that each child is different and grows in different ways. We provide a wide array of programs to address the developmental needs of all of our members.

In this exciting period of change and growth for the Club, we promise to stay true to the high quality programs and responsible financial stewardship that have always defined us. We welcome everyone to come and take a tour of our facility and programs to see for yourself the outcomes we have been able to achieve, and the potential for making even greater impacts in the lives of our members. ■



"We promise to stay true to the high quality programs and responsible financial stewardship that have always defined us."

You Helped James Succeed



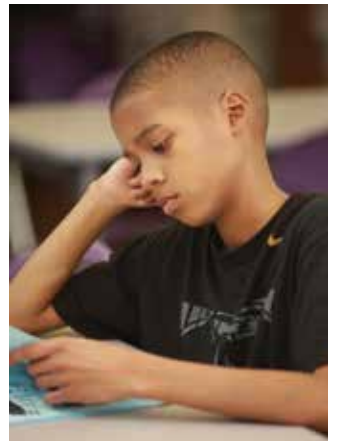
"Because of your investment in GSBC, James is now succeeding at school and no longer views his disability as a barrier to success."

As a third-grader with a disability, James was teased every day at school. His self-confidence suffered so much that his grades were terrible, he had to repeat a grade, and had already been in three different schools. When James came to the Gene Slay's Boys' Club, his mother shared his many challenges, including multiple physical and mental challenges and poor living conditions. James was assessed at only a first grade reading level.

This is when GSBC's Learning Specialist, Shirley White, began working with James. He was tutored 30 minutes each day, four days per week for six weeks. During the first two weeks of tutoring, James was apprehensive and constantly apologized for his work. At times, he would cry uncontrollably. When asked why, he said that he did not believe he could do the work and that he was afraid. After this, James and Shirley spent a significant amount of time discussing and evaluating his work. Together they identified goals and objectives which he felt comfortable he could achieve.

With the continuous tutoring sessions, James began to improve in reading, and his confidence grew not only in his tutoring sessions, but within the other areas of the Club as well. James began playing basketball with the other members and his disability did not hinder him at all. When assessed after the six-week period, James scored well above his grade level.

James grew up being constantly told that he was unable to do things. Through James' time at GSBC, he gained confidence in his abilities and came out of his shell in many ways. Because of your investment in GSBC, James is now succeeding at school and no longer views his disability as a barrier to success. ■





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The Newsletter for Gene Slay's Boys' Club

Spring 2013

In Our Corner

Eugene P. Slay

Gene's dedication to helping youth and improving St. Louis stands as an example to all of us here at the Gene Slay's Boys' Club of St. Louis. That's why we are honored to be a part of the Club that bears his name. A devoted husband and father, an outstanding businessman and philanthropist, Gene was often described as both a teddy bear and tiger.

As a boy, he was a member of the Boys' Club of St. Louis. As he grew, he found himself continually going back to the Club on South 11th Street to help and contribute toward the development of young boys in need. Through his leadership, an endowment fund was created and a premier annual golf outing at Norwood Hills Country Club became the cornerstone of the Club's fundraising efforts.

He believed it was an honor to give back and truly cherished the opportunity to help those who were less fortunate than himself.

If you would like to read more about Gene Slay, please visit the history page of our new website www.geneslaysboysclub.org.

