

Olivet Boys & Girls Club
Ricketts Community Center
Borough of Pottstown Report
May 2010

The Ricketts Community Center currently has 201 youth Club members and 70 adult members. The regular Program Year is rapidly coming to a conclusion, and the administrative team and staff are preparing for summer programming. The Ricketts Community Center will once again partner with the Pottstown School District to facilitate a 21st Century Summer Program at the middle school and at the RCC. The summer program will be an effective blending of academic enrichment and summer recreation activities.

Villa has agreed to partner with the Ricketts Community Center in running a summer Blacktop Basketball League for ages 6 to 15 years old. Registrations for the summer league and summer camp will be scheduled throughout the month of May and early June at the Ricketts Community Center.

The Ricketts Community Center Girls' and Boys' basketball teams made the playoffs, and the boys' 13 to 15 year old team made it to the Championship Game. The Club provided a wonderful end of season pizza party and unveiled the boys' basketball banner during the festivities.

The last evening for the Adult Boot Camp concluded on May 20th, and there is a lot of interest and excitement about the adult programming in the fall. The center will continue to provide hours this summer for adults to use the Fitness Center and gymnasium.

The Olivet Boys & Girls Club is partnering with the YMCA in providing Club teens with the opportunity to participate in Y-Achievers. This program will prepare Club teens for the world of work during the sessions held at the YMCA, and all participants will work the 2010 Summer Camp at the Ricketts Community Center.

The Olivet Boys & Girls club is proud to announce that a community service teen organization called "The Olivet Lighthouse Keystone Club-Pottstown has been founded at the center. The group is planning for activities that will help with the beautification of the grounds and surrounding neighborhoods and helping the less-fortunate within the Pottstown Community.

**Olivet Boys & Girls Club
Borough Of Pottstown
Report for June 2010
Ricketts Community Center**

The 2009-2010 Program Year ended on June 11th, and the week of June 14th provided the time for staff training and preparations for the forthcoming 2010 Summer Camp at the center. The RCC staff has planned for a fun, safe and nurturing summer camp for Pottstown youth between the ages of 6 years and 14 years old. The Club teens will also have a separate program that will involve community service projects, Y Achievers, dance, pool parties, field trips, and career exploration. Once again, students from the 21st Century academic morning program will walk from Edgewood Elementary to the RCC at noon to eat lunch and participate in an afternoon of recreation activities.

The administration has done a wonderful job promoting the traditional eight week camp experience by enrolling 77 Pottstown youth into the camp. An additional 40 children from the Pottstown School District's 21st Century program arrive at the center each day at noon. The camp provides an alternative to costly child care for working parents and provides an appropriate and safe environment for their children. Kids will be enjoying a summer of swimming, recreation, recreational reading, Hip-Hop dancing, scouting, and field trips. The Borough of Pottstown, the Pottstown School District, and the Pottstown Area Health & Wellness foundation help fund this summer of fun and learning for over 110 of Pottstown's young people.

The newly formed RCC Keystone Club, "Light House" for teens empowers them to support and influence their Club Unit and community through service, exhibiting strong character, and participating in the democratic process. On June 9th, the Keystone Club members served meals to the homeless at Heart of God Worship Church. Teens have been participating in the YMCA's Y-Achievers program that helps prepare young people in developing vocational goal-setting and acquiring valuable workforce skills.

The newly formed Ricketts Community Center's Villa Summer Blacktop Basketball League has commenced. The league provides an instructional basketball league for youth ages 6 years old to 15 years old. The organization's goal is to expand the league throughout the years with the support of the Pottstown School District's basketball coaching staff.

Olivet Boys & Girls Club
Monthly Report to the Borough of Pottstown
Ricketts Community Center
July 2010

One of the goals of the 2010 Summer Camp at the Ricketts Community Center was to provide an affordable alternative to costly child care to working parents during the summer months. The goal for summer programming is to provide a fun, safe, and interesting summer for the youth of Pottstown. The summer camp also partners with the Pottstown School District's 21st Century summer enrichment program. Approximately 35 students from the 21st Century program walk from Edgewood Elementary to the Ricketts Community Center for lunch and to participate in afternoon summer camp activities.

The administrative team at the Ricketts Community Center was determined to recruit young people from the community who were not involved with the 21st Century programming to enroll in full day summer camp. Flyers were sent home at school and newspaper advertisements informed families residing within the Pottstown School District about the opportunity for youth to enjoy the summer camp experience. Over 55 young people enrolled in the full day camp. The preparations for a quality summer camp experience are extensive and require a solid plan to implement effective programs.

Funding from the Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation and the Borough of Pottstown allowed for the continuation and expansion of quality programming throughout the summer months. Recreation, health & wellness programs, arts & crafts, scouting, dance, mentoring sessions, sports, field trips, and recreational reading are major components of the 2010 Summer Camp at the Ricketts Community Center.

The following are a list of activities for July 2010:

Pottstown Library Reading Program

Bowling, Pool, Foosball, Computer Technology, Kickball, Dodge ball, and Blacktop Basketball, Dance

Trips to the Walnut Street Park

Penn State Cooperative Extension

Girl Scouts

The SPCA staff presented lessons to campers on how to care for pets.

The Chester County Triskeles Program taught our campers how to plant a vegetable garden and care for them.

Cooking Demonstrations

Field Trips Included: Swimming at the YMCA, Blue Mountain Camp, and French Creek Park,

Memorial Spray Park, Water World, and Manderach Park

**Olivet Boys & Girls Club
Borough of Pottstown Report
Ricketts Community Center
August 2010**

The previous report outlined summer programming at the Ricketts Community Center. The staff received a lot of positive feedback from our campers and parents with regard to the quality of activities at the Club during the summer months. Activities included swimming at the YMCA, French Creek State Park, and The Blue Mountain Camp; trips to Manderach Park, Reading Fair, and The Blue Mountain Camp Fishing Rodeo, Hip-Hop dancing, library summer reading program, Girl Scouts, and arts & crafts, etc.

It was very encouraging to have enrolled 55 summer campers who were not affiliated with the 21st Century partnership with the Pottstown School District. The Black Top Summer Basketball League was a success. The Pottstown High School basketball coaching staff will be more involved with the Black Top program next summer.

Summer Camp's grand finale was the "End of the Summer Friends and Family Day Celebration." The event included great food, games, prizes, and a visit from Rainbow the Clown.

The remainder of August provided time for a thorough cleaning of the facility. Our staff attended OBGC training sessions for fall programming at the Center for the Arts, located in Reading. The RCC staff attended Open Houses at the Pottstown Middle School, Rupert & Lincoln Elementary Schools for the purposes of promoting the Club experience and recruitment.

The Ricketts Community Center will continue to partner with the Pottstown School District's 21st Century Program during 2010-2011. The administrative staff is planning for a community outreach to encourage young people to join the Club. The plan for the new program year will be included in next month's report.

The Club will be open for youth members on September 13, 2010. Day for Kids and Open House will be held on Saturday, September 25, 2010 from 10:00AM.-3:00PM.

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Olivet Boys & Girls Club
Borough of Pottstown Report
Ricketts Community Center
September 2010

The first half of September was devoted to a thorough cleaning of the facility, staff training, and membership recruitment. Al Lopez, Director of Sports & Recreation and Kevin Devera, Health & Wellness Coordinator from the OBGC administrative team facilitated staff training sessions for RCC staff members on nutrition, fitness, and recreation.

The RCC staff planned for a community outreach on September 10th on the outdoor basketball courts and also attended open houses at Edgewood and Barth Elementary Schools during the week of September 6th. The 21st Century Afterschool Program will once again be held beginning in October for elementary school students at the Ricketts Community Center and three other school sites from 3:30PM to 5:30PM. There is a need to recruit additional elementary aged students for Club memberships. Teens are the highest population of Club members at the RCC.

The Ricketts Community Center's staff will introduce a new national BGCA fitness and nutrition program entitled, "Wanna Play?" during the forthcoming 2010-2011 Program Year. The nine week program focuses on nutrition, fitness, and agility within a nine inning baseball format theme.

Olivet staff met with The Hill School administration to secure high school volunteers to assist with programming and to provide academic support to Club members during "Power Hour." Club members have an opportunity to receive guided practice support in completing daily school assignments or work independently in completing homework. After completing daily assignments, Club members participate in recreational reading and also participate in critical thinking activities. The Club has access to "Graffiti Wall" software that provides hundreds of creative learning activities displayed on poster paper throughout the Homework Center.

The Ricketts Community Center hosted a workshop funded by CADCOM entitled, Bridging the Gap-Basic Computer Skills. The program was available to Pottstown families, and upon the completion of all of the workshops, each family was presented with a free laptop and printer.

The Club Membership for the new 2010-2011 Program Year is currently 25 youth members and 21 adult members. The youth membership will significantly increase after the 21st Century after school program commences and throughout the fall months.

Olivet Boys & Girls Club
Borough of Pottstown Monthly Report
Ricketts Community Center
October 2010

Narrative

As the cooler weather and shorter daylight hours arrive, Club membership continues to escalate. The current membership numbers are 40 Adult memberships and 65 Youth memberships. The administrative team is planning a recruitment campaign within the local neighborhoods adjacent to the RCC and also throughout the surrounding neighborhoods of Pottstown. Transportation continues to be a challenge for youth residing on the other side of hazardous intersections.

The partnership with the Pottstown School District continues to support 21st Century after school programming at the RCC and three other elementary school locations. The 21st Century after school programming supports an effective blending of academic support, critical thinking activities, and recreation.

On October 9th, *Greater Philadelphia Cares* brought a host of volunteers for a Ricketts Community Center beautification project involving outside landscaping, cleaning, interior painting, & mural painting. This community service project has improved the appearance of the facility and provides a visual message that the RCC is a fun, safe, and clean place to visit.

A special thanks to the Borough for cleaning and resurfacing the roof. This kind of support from the Borough maintains a professional and pleasant appearance to the facility.

Keystone Club

Keystone Club is the Boys & Girls Club's most dynamic teen programming. Activities include service to Club and community, character & leadership development, education & career exploration, and recreation. Club members volunteered their time to serve meals at the Community Feed held at the Heart of God Worship Center. They will be involved in a *Clothing Drive* in the near future.

Wanna Play?

The RCC will be starting a new BGCA fitness and wellness program entitled, Wanna Play? The program encourages youth to be more active and to follow effective nutritional guidelines in order to live a healthier lifestyle. The nine sessions are designed within a baseball game format including mastering the basic skills of the game.

Lights on Afterschool

The RCC participated in the national celebration of *Lights on Afterschool* on October 21st. The staff partnered with the Pottstown Public Library and the Hill School to provide fun activities for Club members to help celebrate the benefits of after school programs.