

Sharing the Good News... The Hempstead Boys & Girls Club

Wayne Redman
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While economic development is vital for the life of a community, the cultivation and development of the youth of that community is equally important to its future. We are in the business of turning dreams into realities, for we believe that when our youth reach their full potential, we create a better world for everyone, a better world with a brighter future.

As an organization, the Hempstead Boys & Girls Club is committed to the fulfillment of a Youth Development strategy, designed to assist our young people in the successful development of their character. Our programs are focused on instilling the following in our young people:

- *A Sense of Competence* – so they know and believe there is something which they can actually do, and do it well.
- *A Sense of Usefulness* – providing an opportunity to actually do something of value for other people
- *A Sense of Belonging* - providing a setting where our young people feel they belong, providing a place where they “fit in”, a place where they are accepted
- *A Sense of Power or Influence* – giving them a chance to be heard and to influence decisions that impact their future

The implementation of this strategy creates an environment in which self

esteem is enhanced, an environment that will help young people to achieve their full potential.

Let me share some of the good news... we started this summer, with our **11th Anniversary Dinner**, hosted by Michael Coleman, Sports Director of News12. Our honorees included Darius Burton, Head Basketball Coach & Physical Education Teacher at Baldwin High School; Richard Glover, former NY Giant and Head Football Coach at Dickerson High School in NJ; and Gordon Purdie, Head Men’s Lacrosse Coach at Adelphi University. This affair, which was attended by club supporters, local politicians, friends, family and (a few fellow networkers) was a reflection of the good news regarding competence and belonging, values which we try to instill in our youth, as attendees were treated in our youth, as attendees were treated to their dance performance. As a result, Adelphi University has invited us to perform in their 2009 Black History Month Celebration.



We share the good news, as 30 members of the business community (again I thank you fellow networkers) and community based organizations within the Village attended our first **Meet and Greet Networking Event** held at the

Teen Center location at 40 Washington Street. After attending, two individuals volunteered to participate in our Teen Development workshop, designed to broaden the perspective of our youth, by discussing alternative career paths.

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We share the good news that **Summer Camp 2008**, which ran for seven weeks, had over 190 registered campers between our two sites in Hempstead and Lakeview. We took children on 6 outings with the final excursion being a trip to Six Flags in Jackson NJ. We involved children in Positive Youth Development programs, which included cultural awareness, creative writing, art, dance, fitness and health.

We share the good news, and invite you come check out our **2008 Day for Kids Carnival**, which will be held on Saturday September 13th, at our 40 Washington Street location, from 10:00am to 4:00pm... come on out and share in the experience.

Save the Date: ***“Celebrate our Children”*** Golf Outing at Lido Golf Club is on Tuesday, October 14th, complete details to follow.

I ask for your continued support of the Hempstead Boys & Girls Club, a ***“Positive Place For Kids”***, as we strive to provide a source of hope and opportunities for the development of our youth, **who** are the foundation of the future.