



## Sharing a Meal at the Club's Kids Café

In Massachusetts, childhood hunger remains at epidemic proportions: nearly one out of five children under twelve is hungry or at-risk of being hungry. Research has shown that there are crucial relationships between nutrition and health and further, between nutrition and learning. Even mild forms of hunger can cause adverse effects in children, including difficulties with learning and cognitive development, fatigue, and iron deficiency anemia.

Here at the West End House Boys & Girls Club, youth members enjoy a hot, nutritious meal each day through the *Kids Café* program. The mission of *Kids*

*Café* is to provide meals to disadvantaged youth in an environment that is safe, accessible, and convenient. Through a partnership with the Greater Boston Food Bank, the Club serves over 30,000 meals a year to youth members. The number of youth receiving meals at the WEHBGC has more than doubled since the inception of the *Kids Café* in 1999.

*Kids Café* offers kids a chance to slow down, sit at a table with staff, volunteers, and friends, share a meal, and have a conversation. They are re-fueling their bodies, but also learning life skills such as table manners, clean-up responsibilities, and communication.



[from left to right] Michelle Chen, Lisa Luo, Lisa Yee

Nutritionists from the Food Bank assist staff with nutritional guidelines, ensuring that menus reflect a variety of foods, with plenty of grains, fruits, and vegetables. The *Kids Café* program also offers weekly cooking classes for our young people.

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## The Louis I. Kane Center Thrives

College tours, performing arts, SAT preparation, leadership groups, salsa dance lessons, technology classes, movie making, and academic tutorials.... All of these and more are offered in the new Louis I. Kane Youth Leadership Center.

Each day in the Kane Center, youth are empowered to change themselves and their community. In partnership with the Jackson Mann Community Center, programs in education, the arts, technology, and leadership are offered and are guided by the same principles that were present in Louis Kane's life: hard work, social responsibility, activism, and community involvement.

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# Volunteerism on the Rise at the Club!

**A**walk through the West End House Boys & Girls Club's education center at 4:00 PM reveals an interesting new phenomenon. As usual, youth members are sitting at tables with their homework out and staff are busy helping with math problems, phonics, or history homework. However, a new team of adult volunteers are also there. They have chosen to give their time and talents to Club members and their presence has provided much needed one-on-one support. These volunteers initially



Norma Miles, Club parent, reviews spelling words with Stanley.

came to the Club for many reasons, but keep coming back "because of the kids."

WEHBGC board president Charles Rodgers and new board member Stan Schlozman are now familiar faces for kids during homework time. Paris Burstyn, a business consultant, also spends time with young people reinforcing math and reading skills. The Club's education center usually sees between 75 and 100 youth each day and staff are thrilled with the level of support these volunteers provide.

New adult volunteers can be found throughout the Club. Cadore Pricejones began volunteering at the Club almost seven years ago when he helped build the climbing wall and initiate the program. Rob Rhuda, board member of a local social service organization for adults with disabilities, volunteers with Cadore each Thursday at the wall-climbing program. Long time volunteers like WEHBGC board member Joe Walsh continue to give endless hours to our



New WEHBGC board member Stan Schlozman helps Fejorah and Shadae with their homework.

young people, while parents of our members help with swim meets, assist in serving dinner, and have volunteered to help in visual art classes.

There are many ways to get involved in the Club's activities. Volunteers can organize a specific project such as the new charcoal drawing class, or read to a young person in the education center. Find out how you can get involved and help empower neighborhood youth by calling Kristin Morlok at 617-787-4044 ext 29.

## Kids Café [continued from page 1]

In this way, the Club offers youth valuable training in nutrition and the culinary arts. Who knows? Perhaps the next Ming Tsai or Emeril Lagasse is in our midst!

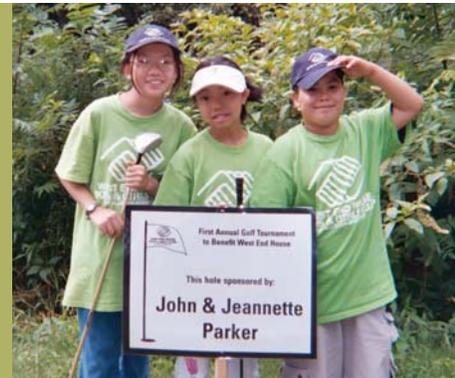
Interested in volunteering? The *Kids Café* needs caring, committed adults to help! Call Kristin Morlok at 617-787-4044 ext 29.

## Louis I. Kane Center [continued from page 1]

For Louis Kane's family, friends, and colleagues, the center celebrates the life of a man who worked tirelessly for the Club and its mission. To find out more about the Louis Kane Youth Leadership Center and how you can help, contact our Executive Director Andrea Howard at 617-787-4044 ext 14 or [ahoward@wehbgc.org](mailto:ahoward@wehbgc.org).

## A New Sport For West End House Boys & Girls Club Youth

**O**n August 25th, the West End House Boys & Girls Club hosted our First Annual Golf Tournament at the Brookline Golf Club. This year's event was sponsored by the Kinavara Pub and coordinated by Gifford Campbell and Robbie Donovan. Golfers included Board members Joe Mulligan, Katie Hope, Sid Boorstein, and State Representative Brian Golden.



[from left to right] Ashley Yu, Jennifer Yu, and Josue Vaquerano

A tournament highlight was our youth golf team pictured here. These Club youth played nine holes during the tournament and showed off the skills they learned this summer through the Massachusetts Golf Association's *ForeKids* program. Once a week throughout the summer, a group of Club members travelled to MGA Links in Norton and were taught golf basics by PGA professionals. Look out Tiger Woods!

# Henry Barr Passes Leadership Torch

When Henry Barr succeeded Joel Goober as President of the West End House Boys & Girls Club in May of 2000, he had already been working closely with his predecessor to transform the organization from its dire financial straits into a corporation with balanced books and



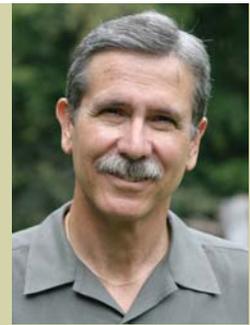
Henry Barr

a sparkling renovated center for kids. "All I could think of was the motto established by my father's generation – *The Spirit of the House Will Never Die,*" says Henry,

"and I knew we just had to succeed." And succeed he did! By the time he passed the baton of leadership to Charles Rodgers last June, he had proven to everyone that the impossible was possible, as evidenced by a "new" WEHBGC that stands as one of the finest facilities of its kind in the country, expanded programs, a balanced budget and a growing endowment.

Charles Rodgers represents a new chapter in the WEHBGC history book as the first President from the local community to take office. When he became involved five years ago, Charles and his wife Fran were living in neighboring Brookline. Charles was taken with the energy and enthusiasm

of board members, staff, volunteers and most of all – our kids. Charles has served as chair of the development committee, playing an integral role in the revitalization of our fundraising efforts and most recently served as chair of the board development committee – two roles that have prepared him well for his term as President of the WEHBGC.



Charles Rodgers

# Inaugural Class of Brian J. Honan Fellows

In July 2002, the Allston-Brighton community lost one of its shining stars when City Councilor Brian Honan passed away unexpectedly at the age of thirty-nine. To honor him, the West End House Boys & Girls Club, together with Brian's family and friends, created The Brian J. Honan Fellowship. With initial support from Harvard University, club professionals and community partners have developed a program that seeks to inspire young people to serve their community.

The service learning fellowship will empower youth to develop leadership skills and stimulate an interest in public service. Participants will attend weekly group meetings to discuss issues of policy, access to services, and community challenges. They will identify neighborhood concerns and develop action plans to address them.

A mentoring component will ensure that students will have weekly one-on-one academic support. The year-long program will culminate with a summer internship in a community agency or

government office. As alumni, youth will continue to serve through active participation as the youth voice on committees and community boards.

The inaugural class of fellows will convene their first meeting in December and are planning their first project for this winter. This program will serve as a living tribute to a man who gave so much of himself to the community and the Club.



Art work created by our club members. Our art programs are supported by The Boston Foundation and the Boston Cultural Council



# The Endowment Challenge

In April 2002, the West End House Boys & Girls Club re-opened its expanded and renovated Club on Allston Street. Improvements include:

- A state-of-the-art technology lab;
- new space for individual and small-group educational programs;
- the addition of a performing arts studio;
- expanded space for visual arts and photography;
- an area devoted exclusively to teen-oriented programs;
- a new commercial kitchen and a new dining space for members.

There is a contagious energy and spirit of rejuvenation in the new Clubhouse that is a part of every program and activity.

Supporters of the WEHBGC passionately believe that the work at the Club must continue and grow. The board of directors has developed a strategic plan that calls for program expansion and a strengthened endowment.

Last year, an anonymous foundation awarded the WEHBGC an endowment challenge grant of \$750,000. The grant requires a two to one match, challenging the WEHBGC board to

raise \$1.5 million by March 2004. When this goal is reached, the Club's endowment will have grown from its 1998 total of \$300,000 to \$2.5 million.

Thus far, supporters have rallied to fund 80% of the goal with a vision to continue the legacy of quality programs for youth. The endowment will provide a strong future and ensure that generations of children to come will have the opportunity to learn and grow at the WEHBGC. Call our Executive Director, Andrea Howard, at 617-787-4044 ext 14 for more information.

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