

JH 8th Annual Golf Classic Success

The 8th Annual Golf Classic, honoring dELiA*s CEO, Rob Bernard, hosted over 120 golfers at the prestigious Fiddler's Elbow Country Club for a fantastic, sunny day of golf. This year's event exceeded expectations and raised over \$82,000 to support JH programming. *jh*



Photos (From left to right): Rich McMenamin and Jed Glick, Honoree Rob Bernard of dELiA*s Inc., The Blue Buffalo foursome celebrates, and past Honoree Scott Rosen of Equinox.



A Word from the Coach

Jennifer Glick, Executive Director



Two years ago, Naomi walked into the gym wearing tight sweat-pants and a t-shirt that did not quite meet her pants. She was preoccupied with flipping her waist length hair and not at all concerned with getting in the circle to warm up and stretch for volleyball. She was in sixth grade with the look and the attitude of a much older teenager.

In Naomi's self-centered adolescent world, she was focused on the school gossip and how she could impose herself in every situation that came her way. During homework help, she would be off visiting every nearby table so she could stir the pot of drama before being told to sit down and take out her homework. Naomi was unable to think about the consequences of not completing her assignments or not following the rules in the after-school program. When she was told she would not be able to participate in volleyball if she did not wear appropriate clothing, it seemed as if the words went in one ear and out the other. The eagerness to participate in Jeremy's Heroes after-school program was clearly not a love of sports or service. She was not looking to improve her grades by utilizing the extra help available to her during homework help. Naomi was there because she wanted to socialize.

Not a week went by, that Naomi was not reminded or warned to wear the right clothes to JH Extra Innings, stay out of others peoples problems, not to overreact to minor incidents, focus on what she was doing at the moment and not on what others were doing, and finally, that her actions would have consequences. Sound familiar? Naomi was a typical middle school student. She had no concept that there was anything else around her except her own present ego-centric "Naomi World". To make matters worse, unless she broke a two generation history of teen pregnancy and single parenthood, her own vision of her future was not bright.

If Jeremy's Heroes Extra Innings program could change the path of Naomi's future, then our program is indispensable. Can a sports and service program

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Memo from the Front Office

Debbie Green, President



Every holiday season for the past 8 years I have the privilege to write the annual JH Holiday Appeal. We appreciate your past support and hope you will donate again. With the economy at a record low and obesity and health issues at an all-time high, we need your donation this year more than ever.

A recent article, from the charity watchdog organization GuideStar, advised donors on 10-Steps To Giving Wisely (GuideStar USA, Inc., www.guidestar.org). They stated that giving wisely boils down to two questions; "Does this charity do work I want to support?" and, "Does this charity do what it says it's going to do?"

JH provides sports and character education that allows at-risk youth to gain physical fitness, develop their ties in the community, and learn what it takes to be part of a team both on and off the court. Each year hundreds of JH kids learn the valuable lessons of hard work, discipline, respect and leadership. The parents, teachers, and community leaders see the positive impact our programming is having, and the number of kids that ask to participate in our program continues to grow each year. Your gift ensures that we don't have to turn them away.

If you or your children have ever experienced the camaraderie of being part of a team, been moved by the words of a coach, or been motivated to work harder to achieve a goal then you already know why you should support Jeremy's Heroes this year.

Please fill out the attached donation card, it's a gift that will be used for a lifetime.

Debbie jh



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A Word from the Coach, Cont.

with a little time for extra school work help change a child's outlook for her future?

Three months into this year's JH Extra Innings program at Naomi's school, the teachers, coaches and I were discussing which 10 out of 75 children would be selected to go to a Knicks preseason game at Madison Square Garden. Our criteria was: perfect attendance, no detentions, being on time for school, no missing homework or failing grades, and displaying leadership qualities during sports and service activities. When we finalized the list, and reviewed the children who had earned this reward, I was elated to see Naomi's name was at the top!

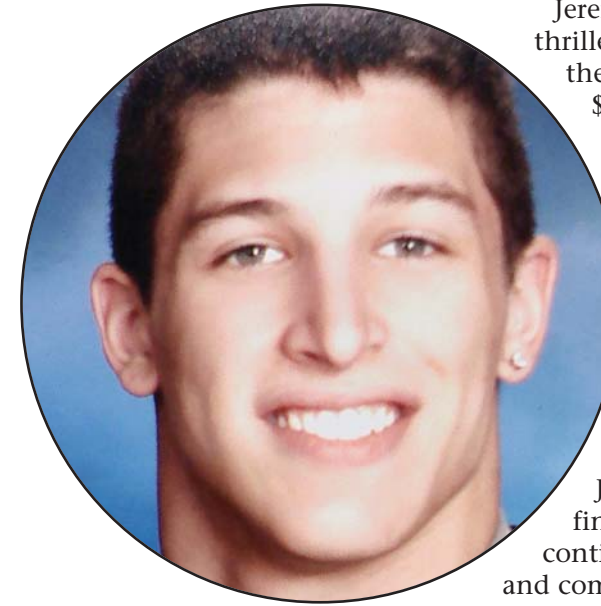
Last week, I was working with the girls doing their community service. A teacher asked if we would decorate the hallway bulletin boards with his students' reports and projects. Naomi was working next to me, cheerfully chatting away about what high schools she was thinking about attending next year. She said no one in her family left the neighborhood for high school, but there were a lot of schools she was interested in attending. Two of the other eighth grade girls were talking about the neighborhood high school and that most of their friends would be going there. It soon became clear that they were trying to make Naomi feel left out for considering any other high school. I turned to Naomi and said I thought the high school search was an exciting chance to meet new people. One of the girls was only too happy to point out that the boy that Naomi liked would be going to school with her, and not Naomi. A comment like this two years ago, was sure to raise Naomi's ire

and demand a quick response. Instead, Naomi turned to me and said "I don't have time to get involved in this drama." She walked back into the classroom and found some other girls to talk to while she worked on cutting out decorations for the board.

Now it is time to answer my question. YES! Jeremy's Heroes sports and service program with a little time for extra school work *does* help change a child's outlook for their future! The attention that Naomi received, the skills and compassion she learned while participating in our sports and service programs, the time that Naomi spent in after-school structured programming instead of hanging out with nothing to do at dismissal time, the constant reminder to think about the consequences of her actions, it all played a role in Naomi's outlook for her future. This typical egocentric middle schooler, with the odds stacked against her, had a support system that helped her understand that she had a future and that she could control that future.

Naomi is not alone! We work with hundreds of kids just like her. As the economy struggles, we know that you want to insure that your donation dollars really have an impact. This holiday season remember Naomi, and all the JH kids and rest assured that the impact your contribution is having will last a lifetime. Please help Jeremy's Heroes continue its role in creating a brighter future for our children and our communities by making a donation or becoming a corporate sponsor. Please contact me at jglick@jeremysheroes.org or (877)-654-6773. **Jennifer** *jh*

Meet Our Newest Jeremy's Hero, Steven Ramos



Jeremy's Heroes is thrilled to announce the award of a \$3,880 grant to a local wrestling star, Steven Ramos. Steven, who graduated from Clarkstown High School in New City, NY this past June, needed financial help to continue training and competing this year.

Steven is a scholarship recipient at North Carolina State for the fall of 2010 where he will be joining their nationally ranked team.

Steven says that he was a sixth grader with a lot of "anger issues." He was making some poor choices and coping with a home life that was riddled with both financial and emotional stress. He was in school and saw a flier that said, "Do you have anger? Take it out on the mat!" Steven showed up for the practice and has been wrestling ever since 6th grade.

Steven is a person who sets no limits on what he can achieve. He has a special drive and persistence that sets him apart from everyone else. Steven grew up in a home with his mom and two older siblings. His father lives in a special care hospital for long-term disabilities. Both financially and emotionally this family has struggled. Steven is the first in his family to graduate high school and attend college.

Steven describes wrestling as saving his life. He says that he realizes that he uses the same strength and focus on the mat to change and refocus other aspects of his life.

Steven is no stranger to giving back to his community in whatever way he can. He attributes his success thus far to the generosity of others and he is committed to helping others reach their goals. Steven volunteers two nights per week at a community wrestling program as an assistant coach. He introduces his passion for his sport to other kids and hopes to spark their interest and share the possibility of changing the path of their lives.

With a 3rd place finish in the NY State Championships this past year and a commitment to attend NC State in 2010, Jeremy's Heroes is honored to be a part of this young man's future wrestling career. Stay tuned... I am sure more great news about Steven will be coming your way! **jh**

JH Leaders Spend a Night with the Knicks!

Some very deserving JH children were given the exciting opportunity to sit courtside at a preseason Knicks game in Madison Square Garden. As a reward for their superlative attendance and performance in the Extra Innings program, 10 children 3 teachers and 1 coach attended the Knicks vs. Lakers game this past October. For almost 2 hours the children watched the players warm up, shoot baskets and stretch before the game. They had the privilege of hearing from Karin Buchholz, VP, Community Relations & Field Marketing, MSG Sports Teams, about the importance of working hard to achieve your goals in school and the many exciting job opportunities that exist relating to sports even if you are not the player on the court! The children left the Garden with a drive and a desire to work hard to reach their goals! The Knicks were winners that night, and so were our JH Kids! **jh**



St. Marks Vs. P.S. 108

For the first time in JH history, 2 different schools with JH basketball teams competed against each other in a scrimmage that ended with only winners!

This past year, after a five-year wait, JH sponsored St. Marks school middle school boys basketball team which was able to compete in over 28 games.

At P.S. 108, the JH Extra Innings Program had offered basketball instruction for our JH kids for a few years, but due to safety concerns the school did not participate in an intramural league. The boys and their coach, Rob, were desperate to have a game against another school. While we were able to organize games against the teachers and the police, the kids were yearning for a competitive game against another school.

JH brought its two schools together and the St. Marks Heroes vs. the 108 Heroes met for a 2 game series. It is difficult to convey the excitement and community building both teams experience from this competition. At P.S. 108, the children set up a snack shack with the proceeds going to purchase mosquito nets to help combat malaria in Kenya. Teachers stayed until after 5:30 to support the kids, parents came to watch their children. Many students supported their school and there were cheers for the "HEROES" singing throughout the gym.

What should be commonplace, a child's team having a game, is not for many of these children. The referee was a wonderful teacher for the children. The boys on both teams were courteous, complimentary and generous. The parents and guardians followed the children's lead and were enthusiastic for their team but also very kind to their opponents.

This year JH expects to expand the basketball program at both schools even further! **jh**

Party Like It's 1989

This past October, our very dedicated friends and sponsors battled the rain to come out for an 80's dance party, featuring the amazing music of Rubix Kube, at the Canal Room in NYC. Patrons "Walked Like an Egyptian" and strutted their stuff "867-5309." It was a fun night for a great cause. For more information about our upcoming fundraising events, email jglick@jeremysheroes.org. **jh**



Jeremy's Heroes, Instant Replay

Jay Williams Joins JH Team!

JH is pleased to welcome Jay Williams to its Board of Directors. A former NBA guard and National College Player of the Year, Jay Williams is a college basketball analyst for ESPN and brings a unique perspective to the sports broadcasting industry. The second overall pick in the 2002 NBA Draft, Williams began his broadcasting career in 2007 at ESPN and CBS covering both college and high school sports. Williams' leadership extended beyond the court and into the classroom where he became the first athlete at the university to earn his degree in just three years (Sociology and Business).

In his spare time, the 27-year-old Williams counsels young athletes on making good life decisions and enhancing their basketball skills through one-on-one training. **jh**



Jeremy's Heroes, Instant Replay