

# CYO Marquee

"Serving Mercer County Youth Since 1952"

Mercer County CYO Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2010-2011

Volume 16 Issue 2



*Wishing you a warm  
and wonderful  
Christmas  
and a bright and  
Happy New Year.*

## 4TH BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME AWARDS BANQUET IS A HUGE SUCCESS

Nearly 200 people filled the banquet hall seats at the Nottingham Ballroom on November 21 for the 4th CYO Basketball Hall of Fame Dinner. Nineteen individuals were enshrined into the Hall of Fame for their basketball greatness over the last 58 years of hoops in Mercer County. Each inductee was introduced, inducted into the prestigious Hall, spoke to the crowd about some of their fondest CYO basketball memories, friendships they made along the way, or a simple thank you to a special someone that made the award possible, received their awards, and photographed for the CYO Basketball Wall of Fame. A great night was had by all that attended, reminiscing with old friends about CYO basketball stories and re-connecting with the CYO today. The next banquet is scheduled for the Fall of 2012. To make a nomination visit our website at [www.cyomercer.org](http://www.cyomercer.org) and go to the Basketball Hall of Fame link to down-

load a nomination form. If you're interesting in becoming part of the Hall of Fame Selection and Planning Committee for the next class contact Patrick Hardiman at (609) 585-4280 x 102 or via e-mail at [phardiman@cyomercer.org](mailto:phardiman@cyomercer.org). The following is a list of those who were inducted into the Class of 2010 : Referee; Joe O'Gorman, Coaches; Bob Bucchi,

Hank Casey, and Jim Dill, Special Contributors; Rose Agabiti, and Scott Bollwage, Female Players; Cindy Astore, Nicole Brown, Caren Castaldo, Patty Hemlinger Jewell, and Sandy Walker, Male Players; Brian Bigos, Jack Cryan, Donald Ellison, Willie Ellison, Fred Falchi, Terry Morawski, Bob Plumeri, and Kevin Tylus. The CYO also honored the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 and Mr. and Ms. CYO Basketball award winners which were Nazier Chew, Camille Duncan, John Lansing, and Dominique Ward.



A group of CYO Basketball Hall of Fame Inductees gather for a photo, from left to right, Kevin Tylus, Scott Bollwage, Rose Agabiti, Jim Dill, and Joe O'Gorman.



## CATCH WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE TRENTON AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

If you were asked what do Long Ball, Octopus Tag, Sharks & Minnows, and Roley Poley Yolie all have in common, many people would not know the answer. But if you asked the children attending Trenton's Afterschool Program this year, you would know that these are the names of their new favorite games to play in the gym. Thanks to a partnership with the New Jersey YMCA State Alliance, the Coordinated Approach to Child Health Program is now a huge part of Trenton's afterschool curriculum. With an emphasis on promoting healthy eating choices and physical activity, the CATCH program shows up that both of those ideas can be taught in a fun environment. Once a week each group gets a chance to play their favorite game in the gym and within five minutes the children that originally said they did not want to play are begging to be "the shark." (That's CATCH slang for the first tager in Sharks & Minnows.) The idea behind CATCH is to instead of lecturing to children the importance of healthy life choices show them that there are fun ways to go about doing that. Whether it is by putting down the video game controller and playing a variation of a game of tag or making a smoothie of fruits and vegetables instead of drinking another soda. CATCH has been a wonderful opportunity to help fight the growing problem that is childhood obesity, but if you ask the children, it is just a fun time. If you are interested in finding out more about this program, feel free to visit their website at [www.catchinfo.org](http://www.catchinfo.org).

## RECENT GRANTS AWARDED

CYO Grant Proposal Writer Nancy Podeszwa has been busy securing grants for program development and operations. Here is a look at some of what she was able to secure. NJ Juvenile Justice Commission awarded a \$9,995 grant for theatre arts program for the Trenton REC and Ewing Camp. Role playing, character development, and theatre games were introduced, and the culmination was the performance for fellow campers, counselors, and families. PSE&G awarded a \$3,000 grant for the Trenton Center for their tutoring program. Ortho-McNeil (Janssen Pharmaceutical awarded a \$5,000 tutoring grant.

KidsBridge/PCA-NJ/CYO partnered to provide conflict resolution training to Trenton and Yardville Summer camp counselors. The \$2,500 grant was funded by PSE&G. Art Works CYO Summer Camp Art Show hosted campers from Trenton and Ewing camps. Their artwork was displayed in Art Works' Community Gallery for the entire month of August with an open reception for friend and families. See page 4 for related photo.

## YARDVILLE DAY CAMP GAINS ACA RE-ACCREDITATION

The Yardville Day Camp recently received the prestigious honor of their American Camp Association re-accreditation through August 31, 2013. The ACA accreditation is considered the gold seal in the camping industry. The CYO was visited in early July by a group of Camp Directors, and was scored on and met over 400 standards in Transportation, Food Service, Health and Wellness, Aquatics, Human Resources, Operation Management, Program Design, and Program Challenge Course. The standards scored ensure that all aspects of the camp are happening in a safe and healthy environment and that the staff working have been properly trained.



## TRENTON PRE-SCHOOL RECEIVES NAEYC RE-ACCREDITATION

The CYO Pre-School of Trenton recently earned the National Association for Education of Young Children (NAEYC) reaccreditation. Every five years our school goes through a rigorous evaluation process to earn this prestigious accreditation. NAEYC has developed 10 standards for high-quality early childhood education. Programs that meet these standards provide a safe and healthy environment for children, have teachers who are well trained, have access to excellent teaching materials, and work with curriculum that is appropriately challenging and developmentally sound. We are extremely proud to have earned this recognition for the 2nd time.

Our school which has 90 students from ages 2 1/2 to 5 years old is currently in its 12th year. Children enjoy a variety of trips and activities. Recently, classrooms visited the Trenton War Memorial to see the play "Harold and the Purple Crayon", and in the October, picked pumpkins at Johnson's Family Farm in Medford.



Children listening to a Thanksgiving story.



Trenton Preschool children enjoying Thanksgiving Feast.

## CYO DIOCESAN CHEERLEADING COMPETITION: (SAVE THE DATE!!)

The Mercer County CYO will be hosting their 2nd Annual Diocesan Cheerleading Competition on Saturday, March 19th. This year's competition will feature Junior Varsity and Varsity team competitions and Miss Yell competitions. For more information, please call (609) 396-8383 x 14.

## CYO PARTNERS WITH HAMILTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

The CYO is proud to announce the recently formed partnership with Wilson and Lalor Elementary Schools in Hamilton Township. The CYO has taken over the operations of the Before and After School Programs at these two schools. Students enrolled in these schools can report to the school as early as 7:30 for the AM portion of the program which runs until 8:45, and the PM portion of the program runs from 3:35 to 6:00.

During this time CYO staff supervise the 85 combined students and provide on site educational assistance and recreational opportunities. The CYO is thrilled with the opportunity to partner with Hamilton Township schools and is exploring the possibility of servicing more Elementary Schools for the 2011-2012 school year.



Pictured left to right: Wilson School Before School Program staff member Katie Stevenson, CYO Executive Director, Tom Mladenetz, Wilson School Principal, Barbara Panfilli, CYO Yardville Director, Patrick Hardiman, and Wilson School Before and After School Program staff member Beverly Taylor take a minute for a picture at the CYO Before and After School Program at Wilson School.

## CYO BASKETBALL

This year, the Mercer County CYO is celebrating its 58th year of CYO Basketball and providing basketball opportunities to the youth of Mercer County. The 2010-11 CYO Basketball season started on Saturday, November 6th with our Annual Opening Mass at the CYO followed by the first games of the season. This year there are a total of 72 teams competing in the 6 leagues that the CYO offers (Girls Freshmen, Boys Freshmen, Girls Junior Varsity, Boys Junior Varsity, Girls Varsity & Boys Varsity) for a total of over 500 games. The schools / parishes that are represented in the CYO Basketball Leagues include: Incarnation / St. James, OLS / St. Anthony's, St. Ann's, St. Anthony's of Padua, St. Gregory's, St. Mary's of Bordentown, St. Paul's, St. Raphael's / Holy Angels, St. Vincent de Paul, Trenton Catholic Academy and Villa Victoria. Stop by the CYO Center most Thursday and Friday nights & Saturday and Sunday afternoons throughout the winter for CYO Basketball action. The CYO Boys & Girls High School Leagues will start in January. For schedule information, please contact the CYO at (609) 396-8383 x 14.

## EWING PRE-SCHOOL KEEPING BUSY

The Ewing Pre-School was off to a running start this past September, welcoming 29 new children to the center. On October 7, the Pennington Township Fire Department visited. The firemen showed the children all of the various kinds of equipment they use to fight fires and every child had an opportunity to get on the truck and spend some time in the driver's seat. More importantly, after they toured the fire truck, all the children watched a fireman get dressed and ready to fight a fire and learned to STOP, DROP and ROLL if they are ever in a real fire situation. The firemen took special care to make sure that everyone understood that children should never be afraid of anyone wearing a fireman's coat, helmet, and boots; but should instead see this person as a friend who is trying to keep them safe.

Our center is also proud to be among 5 centers in Mercer County chosen to participate in The Nutrition and Physical Self-Assessment for Child Care (NAP SACC). As you may already know, Michelle Obama has chosen the elimination of childhood obesity as one of her top priorities as First Lady. This program and others like it are designed to help child care centers provide healthier food choices and a higher level of physical activity in order to combat this serious health risk to our nation's children. NAP SACC will provide continuing education for our staff as well as suggestions for healthier ways to celebrate holidays, increase and improve outdoor / indoor active play time, and keep TV viewing to a minimum to name a few.

This year marks our third year of participation in the Strengthening Families program offered through Child Care Connection. In addition to receiving valuable staff training on ways that our center can help families survive and thrive, we have also received grants that allowed us to purchase a laser printer for the office, a parent information board for our hallway and a computer for our staff / parent lounge.

Finally, we celebrated our Thanksgiving Feast on Thursday, November 18. We enjoyed turkey and all the trimmings and the children made Pilgrim and Native American hats and decorated their own tablecloths. All classes learned about how the Pilgrims and Native Americans celebrated the very first Thanksgiving and also talked about how various cultures use their own customs and foods to make the holiday special.

## SCHOLAR-ATHLETES-FEMALE & MALE ATHLETE-COACH OF THE YEAR:

At the Opening Day Basketball Mass on November 6th, the CYO recognized the 2009-10 Scholar Athlete Team. The recipients were selected for their athletic success and participation as well as their academic achievements during the 2009-10 school year. This year's recipients were: Courtney Adams (St. Raphael's / Holy Angels), Robby Bacovin (St. Mary's), Claudia Barbiero (Incarnation / St. James), Jessica Carey (St. Mary's), Gerry Gomez (St. Raphael's / Holy Angels), Ibrahim Kamara (Trenton Catholic Academy), Rachel Kaniper (St. Ann's), David Liedtka (St. Gregory's), Christina Martini (St. Gregory's), Emily Okupski (St. Paul's), Lucas Sliwinski (St. Ann's) and Dominique Ward (Trenton Catholic Academy). In addition, the CYO also honored Camille Duncan (St. Anthony's of Padua) and Nazier Chew (Trenton Catholic Academy) as the Female and Male Athletes of the year for their athletic success during the 2009-10 season. Also, Vince Peroni from St. Raphael's / Holy Angels was honored as the 2009-10 Volunteer Coach of the Year for all of his time and dedication over the past few decades. Congratulations to all of this year's recipients.

## CROSS COUNTRY MEET

On Saturday, October 30th the Mercer County CYO held their 5th Annual Cross Country Meet at Mercer County Park. This year we had 65 participants at the meet. Schools and parishes that were represented at this year's meet included: Incarnation / St. James, OLS / St. Anthony's, St. Ann's, St. Gregory's, St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church, St. Paul's, St. John's & Trenton Catholic Academy. The length of the course was approximately 1.25 miles and trophies were given out to the top finishers in each division.

### GIRLS JV:

|                  |            |      |
|------------------|------------|------|
| Rebecca Maslanka | St. Paul's | 8:12 |
| Carolyn Maslanka | St. Paul's | 8:24 |
| Mary Kate Bailey | St. Paul's | 8:36 |

### BOYS JV:

|                 |             |      |
|-----------------|-------------|------|
| Rory Hogan      | St. Paul's  | 7:23 |
| Jonathan Torres | TCA         | 7:48 |
| Marcus Jones    | Incarnation | 7:54 |

### GIRLS VARSITY:

|                    |               |      |
|--------------------|---------------|------|
| Emily Klockenbrink | St. Gregory's | 8:21 |
| Sarah Domino       | St. Paul's    | 8:33 |
| Kelly Lynch        | St. Paul's    | 9:13 |

### BOYS VARSITY:

|                 |               |      |
|-----------------|---------------|------|
| Brian Reilly    | St. Raphael's | 6:47 |
| Michael Elliott | St. Paul's    | 7:19 |
| Jack O'Donnell  | St. Gregory's | 7:42 |

## MERCER COUNTY CYO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**President**  
Most Rev. David M. O'Connell

**Secretary**  
Rev. Stanley Krzyston

**Chairperson**  
Arthur J. Caola

**Vice Chairperson**  
Donna Davidson

— **Board Members** —

Louis Bruni, CPA  
Marty Flynn  
Matt Greeley  
Tom Griffith

Lt. Edelmiro Gonzalez Jr.  
Scott A. Krasny, Esq.  
Sandra Valenza Oropel  
Maurice Whetstone

## MERCER COUNTY CYO FULL TIME STAFF LISTING

**Executive Director**  
Thomas G. Mladenetz, M.Ed.

**Yardville Branch Director**  
Patrick M. Hardiman

**Trenton Program Director**  
Mark Newman

**Administrative Director**  
Donna Zolnierzak

**Athletic Director/Teen Program Director**  
Quincy Walzer

**Administrative Asst./Financial Services**  
Kathy Schroeder

**Family Workers**  
Carmen Davila  
Gloribee Pica

**Program Coordinator**  
John Soss

**Assistant Food Manager**  
Tiffany Swortz

**Grant Writer**  
Nancy Podeszwa

**Yardville Pre-School Staff**  
Kara DeBonis (Head Teacher/Supervisor)

|                 |                 |                |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Ericka Baggott  | Melissa Evert   | Katie Matthews |
| Carol Blanche   | Adria Frascella | Linda Shulman  |
| Michelle DeLena | Tina Lestician  | Chris Villani  |

Dan Bossio (Yardville Program Coordinator)

**Trenton Pre-School Staff**

|                  |                    |                  |
|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Ayo Akiwowo      | Ivelisse Hernandez | Nadia Rowe       |
| Tamilyn Bradford | Amy Jacobsen       | Elisa Simas      |
| Griselle DeJesus | Romona Jimenez     | Dessie Smith     |
| Ingrid Garcia    | Michelle Lanning   | Jerilyn Tykarski |
|                  | Hipolita Lopez     |                  |

**Ewing Pre-School Staff**

**Ewing Branch Director**  
Linda Kraut

**Administrative Assistant**  
Debbie Kirschenbaum

**Pre-School Staff**

|                  |                    |                |
|------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Gladys Brown     | Robyn Fratticcioli | Jasmine Stacey |
| Denise Dickerson | Gae Santiago       | Helen Woodland |
| Mabel Dyuos      | Deborah Smith      |                |



Pictured from left to right at the \$3,000 check presentation from PSE&G, are Andrea Sirak, CYO Tutoring Coordinator, Frank Lucchesi, PSE&G Regional Affairs Manager, and Tom Mladenetz, CYO Executive Director



Students from the Trenton After School Program take a minute to gather for photos before the Halloween parade in the CYO Center gymnasium.



Some lucky CYO Trenton After School Program children recently received filled backpacks which were donated by the NJ Law and Public Safety Credit Union. Pictured with CYO children are Bonnie Karczewski, from the NJ L & PS CU (who organized this event along with Mary Ann Flynn), and the CYO Executive Director, Tom Mladenetz.



Parents of campers from Trenton and Ewing CYO Summer Camps stroll through the gallery at Art Works checking out the work that their children did this past Summer. The kids' artwork was displayed in the Art Works Community Gallery for the entire month of August.



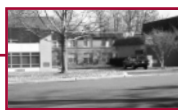
The Trenton Evening Teen Program ended after more than 30 years of operation due to City CDDBL funding cuts. The CYO acknowledged long time Program staff member Roscoe Kelly for 25 years of service to the Teen Program with a plaque. Pictured left to right are Mark Newman, Trenton Program Director, Tom Mladenetz, CYO Executive Director, Tom Mladenetz, Roscoe Kelly, and Quincy Walzer, CYO Athletic Director.



Eagle Scout Constructs Two Sheds at the CYO Yardville. Pictured left to right are Patrick Hardiman, CYO Yardville Director, Kevin Byer, a local Eagle Scout who constructed the sheds, Tom Mladenetz, CYO Executive Director, and Lou Bruni, Scout Leader and CYO Board Member who oversaw the project.



**Trenton CYO Center**  
920 South Broad Street  
Trenton, New Jersey 08611  
(609) 396-8383



**Ewing Branch**  
320 Hollowbrook Drive  
Ewing, NJ 08638  
(609) 883-1560



**Yardville Branch**  
453 Yardville-Allentown Rd.  
Yardville, New Jersey 08620  
(609) 585-4280

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