Newport Yacht Rendezvous – From the Heart!

NEWPORT, RI – The Boys & Girls Club of Newport County is thankful “From the Heart” to the many community members, yacht participants, board members, volunteers and guests who made this year’s Newport Yacht Rendezvous a successful night to remember! Over 425 guests attended this year’s event that featured nautical chic attire, a fun yacht hop across the docks, dinner along the waterfront and dancing and music by Z Studios (Peter Hatfield and Charlie Hoxie).

The Yacht Rendezvous, which was held on Friday, August 9th at Newport Shipyard, honored Rocky Kempenaar, a former club kid who has shown commitment to the Club, our members, and the future of our community. Rocky was honored for his outstanding 25+ years of service to the Boys & Girls Club of Newport County. He has made a significant difference in the lives of many young people in our community. A special gift was given to Rocky Kempenaar which included a song written and sung live by the Club kids. Rocky is very proud to have grown up as a Club Kid. He still has close friendships with past members and alumni, many of whom were present that evening along with his family to celebrate.

During the start of the evening, guests received welcome cocktails provided by Keel Vodka and Beer & Bubbles. Following the ‘Yacht Hop’ guests enjoyed a seated dinner provided by Russell Morin Catering & Events under a harbor-side tent decorated with lanterns and glistening lights. Sarah Rodgers provided the beautiful floral designs along with Ryan Designs with the tent lighting. The evening efforts were led by Kristin Reed, Board President, and other dedicated board members and hosted by Joe Pratt, Executive Director.

Nine yachts were featured in this year’s ‘Yacht Hop’ lineup:

- KALEEN, 112 ft, Moran Yacht & Ship
- SEAQUELL, 108 ft, Ocean Independence
- LADY CARMEN, 100 ft, HMY
- PERSEVERANCE 3, 95 ft, Merle Wood & Associates
- ESSENCE OF CAYMAN, 85 ft, Merle Wood & Associates
- GODDESS, 58 ft, McMillen Yachts/Churchill Yacht Charters
- AZIMUT FLY, 55 ft, Marine Max
- MERMAID STAR, 47 ft, Newport Dinner Cruises
- LU CASA, 41 ft, NavTours

Lieutenant Colonel Allen Corcoran, current BGC Board Member, led the ‘Raise the Paddle’ initiative for Camp Grosvenor with the theme “From the Heart” with his dream team; Mike Coelho, Director of Programs, Kiara, BGC Alumni and a group of Club kids. The Dream Team all labeled themselves as the “luckiest people alive” for being a part of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Newport County.

Kiara, BGC Alumni and Youth of the Year spoke movingly, “From the Heart”, about her time at the Club as a youth as well as how her success in school and athletics would not have been possible without the resources the club offered. With the Club’s help, Kiara is now attending the University of Rhode Island and will become an advocate for at-risk or incarcerated youth in order to help youth find a better way of life and to break the cycle of violence.

The Club is thrilled to report that $255,000 was raised for Camp Grosvenor and a special Anonymous gift was made of $100,000 to support the overall impact the Club is making in our community.

The Club is also thankful to the vendors and individuals who helped make this event possible, especially: Veronica Brown from the Newport Shipyard, Jennifer Saia from B & B Yacht Charters, Inc., C & S Portable Restrooms, Peak Event Services,
Newport Tent Company, and Valet Connection who helped make the evening memorable. The photographers were Andrea Hansen and Nick Mele.

About Boys & Girls Clubs of Newport County
The mission of the Boys & Girls Clubs is to Shape Great Futures. To inspire and enable all youth, especially those who need help most, to achieve their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens. For more than 60 years, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Newport County has provided quality programming and services to all youth in the community. The Club is part of a nationwide movement of more than 4,000 Boys & Girls Clubs, and provides services to more than 6,000 youth annually.

For more information, contact the Boys & Girls Clubs, 401-847-6927 or visit our website at www.bgcnewport.org.

Honoring Rocky!
from Left to Right: Camp Kids, Rocky Kempenaar, Joseph Pratt
Photo by Andrea Hansen

“Dream Team”
Kiara, Camp kids and Allen Corcoran aka “Capt Al”
Photo by Andrea Hansen

Red lanterns filled the tent for a “Summer Camp” themed evening
Photo by Nick Mele
Guests were given Boys & Girls Club sunglasses from BGC members!
Photograph by: Nick Mele

Guests and members enjoyed the yacht hop!
Photograph by: Nick Mele

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