

# Circle of Friends

The Newsletter of  
Waterford Country School, Inc.

## Exciting Changes at WCS

Under a newly revised organizational model, Waterford Country School is now managed by an eleven person leadership team. An experienced staff member has accepted a new position and two newly-hired employees are new roles working alongside eight others on the team. In addition, two new members joined the Board of Trustees.

William Martin was appointed Executive Director effective September 1, 2012. He has been employed with the Agency more than 32 years, for most of that time serving as Assistant Executive Director, responsible for program leadership. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work from Fairleigh Dickinson University and a Master of Arts degree in Human Service Administration from Antioch University. Bill is also on the faculty of Cornell University on a part time basis, providing training and consultation for the Residential Child Care Project.

Katherine Teel became a full-time employee on December 12, 2012. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Eastern Connecticut State University and, for the last 27 years, served as a trooper with the Connecticut State Police retiring this year as a Sergeant assigned to the Training Academy. Prior to that, she served as a Child Care Worker and later

Pictured from left: William Meese, Katherine Teel, and William Martin

a Supervisor here at WCS. Kathy is now responsible for overall Agency safety practices, staff training, facilities and food service management and overseeing the licensing, accreditations and quality improvement programs.



Spring 2013

William Meese joined Waterford Country School as Director of Staff Support on January 7, 2013. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, a Master of Arts degree in Strategic Studies and National Security Policy from the Naval War College, and is a certified Coast Guard instructor and trainer. Bill is a graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and a retired officer with 27 years of service. He is responsible for overseeing Human Resources, Fiscal Management and Information Technology operations.

In continuing service to the Agency leadership are Sharon Butcher, Director of Education; Christopher Lacey, Director of Foster Care and Community Services; Rick McPherson, Director of Experiential Education; Matthew Menghi, Director of the Shelters; Robert Paolino, Director of Safe Homes; Susan Sullivan, Director of our Medical Program; Emily Thomson, Director of Residential Treatment and Group Homes; and Julianna Velazquez, Director of Development.

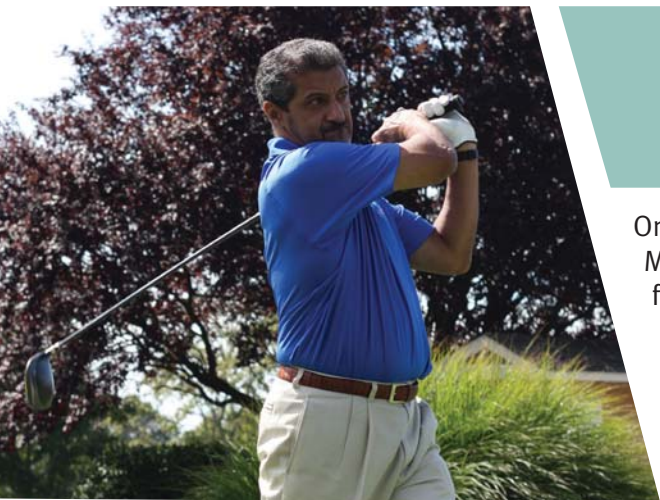
Two new Board members were elected this fall, Christine Hammond and Nicholas Fortson. Christine earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism from University of Michigan and a Master of Arts degree from Michigan State University. She is Chair of the English Department at Three Rivers Community College in Norwich where she teaches English. Nick holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Valparaiso University and is the Chief Financial Officer at CorePlus Federal Credit Union in Norwich. They replaced the Late Eunice Waller and Jerry Levine, each of whom served on the Board for over 30 years.

The leadership team and Board members are working closely to address the challenges that Connecticut non-profit agencies are facing and seeing the many opportunities to make Waterford Country School a great Agency for Children and Families.

# 2012 Fundraising Gala Success!

On October 26, 2012, we celebrated our 90th Anniversary at the Kabaret for Kids annual fundraiser held in the Uncas Ballroom at Mohegan Sun. We launched a “Forever Fund” for our farm with donations totaling just over \$10,000 and the amount raised was more than \$51,000 for our programs and services. The Forever Fund is a means for building a strong foundation for the future of the farm. The farm cares for approximately 250 injured animals each year. To all of our supporters and volunteers, THANK YOU!

**This year’s 10th Kabaret for Kids fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, November 16, 2013. So mark your calendars and join us!**



## 2012 Golf Tournament

On September 20, 2012, our 2nd “Bring Your Mojo” Golf Tournament in memory of founding family member, Gary Saunders, was held at Great Neck Country Club in New London. More than 120 golfers participated and we raised over \$44,000 for the Fitness Center which will be located in the new gym. For their incredible efforts, special appreciation goes to Scott Gladstone of Wireless Zone, Todd Blonder of TJ Motors, Tony Suarez of Northern Light Gems, and Terry Eames of Waterford Speedbowl. To the numerous supporters and volunteers of this event, THANK YOU!



**This year’s golf tournament is scheduled to take place on Thursday, September 19, 2013. The event features great prizes, a catered dinner, and other exciting activities.**

To donate an item for these events or to discuss sponsorship opportunities, please contact the Development Office at WCS.



# Local Corporations and Organizations

## Volunteer and Support Efforts at WCS

Donna Andren of **Lawrence and Memorial Hospital** provided 100 charming handmade stockings for the children, youth and families we serve. Donna also directed donations from employees to include in the holiday stockings. Staff donated snack items, gift cards, winter attire and other articles of clothing which were distributed amongst the people we serve in all of our programs.

Sometimes residents of WCS are not able to go home for the holidays and our goal is to ensure that every child's day is special. We are grateful to **Mohegan Sun Casino and O'Neil Cinemas** in Lisbon who offered our youngsters a pleasant day. A small group enjoyed a delicious brunch and a movie on Christmas day. It was just what they needed.

**Home Depot in Waterford** provided a grant for \$2,300 to build an outdoor fitness trail. Kristina Forte, Store Manager, and other staff volunteered and assisted us in the construction of the trail. This provides residents, students and staff a chance to enjoy the outdoors despite the weather. On a warm or cool day, the trail provides an opportunity for fundamental strength training and enhanced physical fitness. Hitting the trails creates an ideal environment for many – those seeking to gain an appreciation for nature, those who simply need a walk and even those who are looking for an advanced exercise routine. Workout stations include introduction and warm up/ stretching, sloped run/walk, pull-ups, push-ups, sit-ups, and a basic obstacle course. Home Depot, thank you for your support!

**Mystic Yoga Shala** provided a variety of gifts including journals, jewelry, as well as arts and crafts supplies.

Sheila Edmonds, Director of Human Resources at **Triumph Actuation Systems in East Lyme**, coordinated volunteer efforts to refurbish our softball field. More than 24 employees participated in removing debris and renovating an area that was overgrown, equipped with aged, rusted bleachers, and lacked adequate storage for sports equipment. These challenges did not dissuade the volunteers in any way. Volunteers labored nonstop for two full days and at the end of the second day, despite the physical weariness of the task, they made time for a non-competitive softball game with our students. It is supporters like the Triumph group who make a positive impact on the children and youth we serve. Their kindness transformed a barely used area into a beautiful playing field that our students and residents will enjoy for a long time. It is projects like this that make an enormous difference! Thank you!



Our newly refurbished softball field coordinated by volunteers through Triumph Actuation Systems in East Lyme.

In December, **Wireless Zone** presented WCS with a grant in the amount of \$2,500 for our summer camp program. In addition, Scott Gladstone and Neil Ryan, owners of several Wireless Zone locations, petitioned staff members to give back to the community. They organized a holiday gifts drive which provided gift cards, music CDs, books, posters, video games and DVDs.

This past January, WCS received a \$500 donation from the **New London Beach Bash** fundraiser. City Councilor Michael Buscetto organizes this event each year and distributes about \$100,000 to a variety of local organizations. It is his way of bringing community members together to “pay it forward”.

Staff members of **Electric Boat** recently provided funding for 100 children to receive gifts during the Christmas holiday season.

**On behalf of the children, youth, and families of WCS, thank you for taking the time to help. We appreciate all of our supporters and are grateful for all that you do.**

## Recognition of WCS Staff and Board Achievements and Milestones in 2012

### 30 YEARS

Anne Adams  
Wendy Noyes-Porte  
Phyllis Rodgers

### 20 YEARS

Gloria Dover  
Darryl Gibson  
Michele Turner

### 15 YEARS

Jon Dubois  
Dennis Fields  
Laura McBride  
Lynn Morey  
Dave Pfeiffer  
Nancy Rodriguez  
**Andrea Stillman**  
\*Board Member

### 10 YEARS

Shaunté Adams  
Norma Alamo  
Thomas Burek, Jr.  
Barbara Crocker  
Lisa Crowley  
Linda Gambro  
Mary Johnson  
Josephine Ladson  
Robert Reece  
Betzaida Rosario  
Gladys Santana  
Derek Shaw  
**Christine Murtha**  
\*Board Member

### 5 YEARS

Patrick Alberini  
Georgia Alevras  
Elese Burgess  
Brittany Caruso  
Robin Clark  
Syere Coleman  
Anita Edelman  
Diane Gallagher  
Nicole Godbout  
Richard Heller  
Joseph Holmes  
Pride Kelledes  
Donna Kilhenny  
Rachael Magnani  
Rickey Mims  
Pedro Ortiz  
Angelina Rodriguez  
Terri Summers

### 25 YEARS

Mary Oddo

# WATERFORD COUNTRY SCHOOL

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860-442-9454

[www.waterfordcountryschool.org](http://www.waterfordcountryschool.org)

## Our Mission:

Waterford Country School is dedicated to doing whatever it takes to enrich the lives of children and strengthen families through specialized programs, resources, and community services.

Join our online  
community!



Donate  
online! **PayPal**

WCS Development Office  
(860) 442-9454 • [development@waterfordcs.org](mailto:development@waterfordcs.org)

## The Time is Now!

Current Gymnasium



Proposed Project  
Rendering

The Otto Graham Gymnasium and Activity Center is ready to be built. We have redesigned the plans to make it a more affordable project. We are almost there! So far, we have raised 85% of our project total – almost \$2 Million! Support is now essential – we need your help to make this a reality. We are hopeful that, with the help of our supporters, we can accomplish our final \$500,000 goal and break ground by the end of summer! No donation is too small - we need EVERYONE'S help!

All children deserve a high-quality education which includes a well-planned physical education curriculum. We will do whatever it takes for children to learn in a safe, healthy environment. For many years, our children have had to make do in a reconverted dairy barn for their gym activities. Deteriorated conditions, inadequate heating and insufficient space have all been part of our daily struggles. Physical activity is essential to positive growth and development. This type of programming increases competencies, improves strength and overall health, develops motor skills, and provides enjoyment of recreational activities. Children will learn responsibility, the importance of teamwork, and leadership abilities will flourish. We will provide a wide range of developmentally appropriate activities in a non-competitive environment. This offers a rewarding experience that fosters learning across subjects such as math and science, gives students an additional outlet to relieve stress, and enhances emotional health and determination. Please consider supporting our Agency.

Your contribution will help us build a facility where students and residents can work out and join team activities designed to promote lifelong fitness. The gym will be approximately 13,000 square feet equipped with a full size basketball court, seating, locker rooms, a stage for arts programming, a fitness center, and staff offices. As an agency, we are making careful decisions to help students and residents be healthy. Please support this project. Your contribution is never too small, every cent counts! On behalf of our students and residents, thank you for your kindness and generosity.