

Everybody Wins! CT provides reading enrichment programs that engage students, encourage leadership and learning, inspire a love of reading, and build stronger communities.

Happy New Year 2008!

As the New England winter comes upon us, we anticipate not only cold weather but also good things happening for Everybody Wins! CT. We have identified several new fund raising opportunities.

Use www.goodsearch.com as your search engine, and Everybody Wins! CT earns one cent per search. Through goodsearch.com, you can also access goodshop.com, which donates a percentage of your purchase to Everybody Wins! CT. Help us to help the children in greater Hartford by purchasing through www.goodsearch.com.

And don't forget to visit our Web site, www.everybodywinsct.org. By using the link for Amazon.com on our site, Everybody Wins! CT gets a percentage of the cost of the items you order. So just imagine, you will save money while donating dollars to a worthy cause.



Executive Director's Message

It is difficult to imagine that in October I celebrated my 4th anniversary with Everybody Wins! CT. As I sit ruminating over the changes that have taken place, the thought that continues

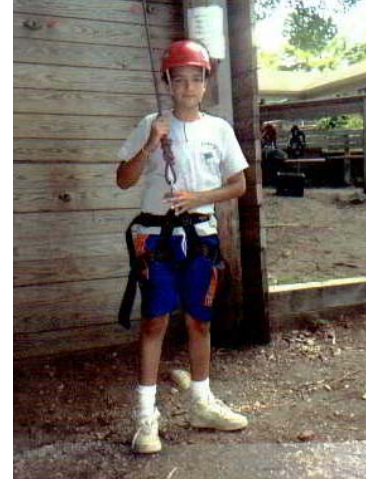
to come up is "community." While it is a reading enrichment program, Everybody Wins! CT also builds community. We employ, as school coordinators, parents of students in the schools we serve. We enable these parents to continue their education at Goodwin College. We build collaborative programs with area corporations and not-for-profits, and we empower students by providing them with the skills necessary to succeed. Community is essentially the track to success. By building the role modeling/ leadership component within our reading enrichment programs, we are showing students that they can succeed. Actions speak louder than words, and role models building a relationship with students communicates a love of books in the best possible way ... by reading. Our Board of Directors, our staff, our volunteer reading mentors, our sponsors, and the students we serve are all shining examples of the best that our greater Hartford community has to offer.

Everybody Wins! with a Summer Retreat

Thanks to Camp Jewell YMCA, a year-round outdoor center in Colebrook, CT, we have been starting off our Readers as Leaders program with a team-building retreat there each year. Three days and two nights in the wilderness have

enabled our middle-school students to learn about working together, being part of a community, and being a role model to their younger reading buddies. Students so enjoy their experiences at the retreat that we looked for a way to provide them with additional "community building" experiences. We, along, with Camp Jewell came up with a winning proposition.

Camp Jewell administrators have agreed to partner with us to offer one of our students a scholarship to attend summer camp, all expenses paid. We had a lottery and Eli Miranda, a two-year participant in Burr Elementary School's Readers as Leaders program, was the grand-prize winner.



Eli and his mom were thrilled at his opportunity, and Jen Smagin, guidance counselor at Burr, helped him prepare for his summer adventure.

During Eli's two-week stay at the camp, he made many new friends and acquired a favorite counselor. He lived with other cabin mates in a cabin called "Ewok," and learned that as a group they had to operate "as a well-oiled machine" to win the "Best Cabin" award. Eli had a great time, made friends from all over Connecticut, and wrote heartfelt thank-you notes to all. Eli's experience exemplifies the Everybody Wins! CT mission to a T:

Everybody Wins! CT provides reading enrichment programs that engage students, encourage leadership and learning, inspire a love of reading and build stronger communities.

Everybody Wins! Wish List

- Books, books, and more books
- Videographer to help us videotape the program sessions
- Supplies for student activities (construction paper, scissors, markers, crayons, easels, etc.)

If you wish to make a financial donation, please make your check payable to "Everybody Wins! CT" and mail it to the attention of Donna Gordon, Executive Director, Everybody Wins! CT, 30 Arbor Street, Hartford, CT 06106

Everybody Wins! Kids Corner

A Very Special Thank You

This past February, students participating in the Power Lunch program at Clover Street School made Valentine's Day cards for soldiers serving in Kuwait. Richard Heubner, one of our volunteer reading mentors from Alstom Power, has a son who was serving in Kuwait at the time. The Valentine's Day cards were mailed to him with the request that he pass them along to the other soldiers in his Air Force unit. As you can imagine, this was an exciting experience for the Power Lunch students. Not only did they have the opportunity to learn about the difficult situation facing our service men/women in Kuwait, they also had the chance to learn about building community, and giving back and being a role model – a role model similar to their very own volunteer reading mentor.



Staff Sergeant Michael Heubner and his unit were very appreciative of the cards they received. To thank the students for their thoughtfulness and caring, the soldiers presented the students with a United States flag. But this was not just any flag. At an assembly on December 14, students were presented with a battle flag that was taken on a mission from Kuwait to Iraq. The students were very impressed with the staff sergeant and soldiers who presented the flag in full regalia. The assembly ended with a heartwarming rendition of "It's a Grand Old Flag," sung by the entire school and earned some major publicity for Everybody Wins! CT.

Night of the Chefs



On November 17, 2007, a good time was had by all at Manchester Community College at Everybody Wins! CT's second annual Night of the Chefs. Not only did we raise about \$20,000 to support our mission, but guests were able to observe a cooking challenge and cake

decorating competition while sampling a delicious assortment of tasty treats. The evening included a silent auction of many valuable and desirable items, and a special Mojito was introduced as the signature drink. Thank you to all who attended and supported our special event. Thank you to the Night of the Chefs committee. A special thanks goes to Beverly Boucher, chair of the Night of the Chefs event. We look forward to another fantastic event in 2008!



It's a Family Affair

Everybody Wins! CT has been fortunate to have Linda Dixon from Travelers as a volunteer reading mentor at SAND Elementary School for more than eight years. Linda volunteered for the Power Lunch program because she loves to read and believes that reading is essential to success. In her first year as a reader, Linda read with Kenisha who was, at that time, in second grade. Kenisha and Linda read together until she



graduated from SAND at the end of sixth grade. Through her years in the Power Lunch program, Kenisha developed a strong interest in reading books of all kinds and began to write poetry. The relationship between the two reading partners also grew close.

When Kenisha left SAND, her younger sister, Mariah, was ready to become part of the Power Lunch program. So, Linda began to read with Mariah. This school year is the pair's third year reading together. Mariah loves to read about her special interest – dinosaurs. Linda has seen much growth in Mariah's reading ability and interest. Since Mariah is now in the second grade, she and Linda have quite a few more years to enjoy being in each other's company and reading books together! Everybody Wins! CT sincerely appreciates Linda's efforts and those of all our Power Lunch volunteer readers. Volunteers continue to make a difference!

Volunteer Outreach Coordinator

We welcome Nancy Sherman as our new volunteer outreach coordinator. Nancy came to us through a grant from AmeriCorps. Her main role is to act as liaison among students, volunteer reading mentors, the schools we serve, and the school coordinators. Nancy has a rich background in the corporate world. She has come to Everybody Wins! CT because she wanted to make a difference on a daily basis. And she has! We are lucky to have Nancy Sherman with us and thank Everybody Wins! USA for creating this new position. Nancy's goal is to recruit 75 additional volunteer reading mentors for the year, and we are more than halfway there. Way to go, Nancy!

The Everybody Wins! Foundation thanks all our wonderful partners and sponsors for their financial support and for providing us with volunteer reading mentors. Thanks for helping to make Everybody Wins! CT a success!

Contact Information for Everybody Wins! CT

Donna Gordon
Executive Director
Everybody Wins! CT
30 Arbor Street
Hartford, CT 06106
860-232-3549

