

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.



# CIRCLE OF FRIENDS *summer 2011*

THE WATERFORD COUNTRY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER  
*residential and community programs supporting children and families*



## HONORING STUDENTS ON AWARDS DAY AT WCS

On June 22, 2011 staff, friends, board members, and volunteers gathered beneath a pavilion to celebrate with great pride and anticipation their students' accomplishments. Many students received awards, and two students graduated and received their official diplomas from their hometown high school. Executive Director, David Moorehead praised students and welcomed all. Robert Anderson, President of the Board of Trustees, congratulated students and expressed the Board's delight in seeing the children and youth learn, grow, and develop – "you are the reason why we do what we do".

Amid the awards presentation, students showcased their talents and artistic abilities. Some performed solos in percussive instruments, others emphasized poignant harmonies, and a few revealed a heartfelt and tender poetic elegance which conveyed sentiments of optimism and joyfulness.

Principal, Sharon Butcher and Assistant Principal, Pamela Giannelli accompanied by teachers, paraprofessionals, and other education staff expressed their delight in working with each student – shaping their minds and watching them learn and grow.

Pam Giannelli distributed awards which she cunningly named "Caught Ya!" [Doing something good]. Each award brought laughter and demonstrated students' creativity. Student efforts were recognized for consistently helping others, being a good role model, having a good sense of humor, athleticism, musical talents, and even for having a keen fashion sense. All students were recognized for their hard work and commitment.

Antjuan Sherad, (picture below), a former Waterford Country School resident, cheerfully addressed the group. Teachers describe him as "a quiet and peaceful student leader who always saw the good in others student. He applied himself academically and was driven to do his best". He graduated from high school on June 17th and is enrolled at Gateway Community College where he will attend in the fall. He plans to study medicine.

Antjuan encourages students to embrace a "Vision of Hope".

*For every problem there is a solution, but to gain or accept you must create a resolution. To make a goal or create a pack, to remain looking forward rather than falling back. From the black of night to white of day, let all pain and anger flow slowly away. To be clean and think clear is where you want to be, so when you walk down the road you know you're stepping free. Instead of looking down start to look up, to all of life's choices that are starting to erupt. Take a look at your path to study the ground, keep heading straight rather than turning around. What I deserve in life is all up to me, what I need and what I am or what I want to be. Hope can be a vision that reflects what you imagine, a picture or a dream that feels real like a passion. On the days where life seems to have no point or feels hopeless, grab a goal or a dream to regain your focus.*

***Kudos to all students and we wish them all continued success!***



# Circle of Friends: Annual Giving Program - Update



Executive Director David Moorehead stated, "We have many loyal individuals and supporters in the community and I believed that if we set the bar, the community would respond." Thank you for partnering with Waterford Country School (WCS) this past year. Donations came from a variety of sources including individuals, small businesses, foundations, and corporations. Your contributions helped us reach our annual fund goal of \$35,000. Your generosity enables WCS to meet the special needs of the

children, youth and families we serve. Beth Camassar, Annual Fund Chairperson, Board of Trustee member and Chairperson of the Development Committee recognizes the impact of donors' gifts, "I would like to offer my personal thanks to everyone that has donated to this year's campaign. Even in these very difficult economic times, our loyal supporters have demonstrated their commitment to the work we do in Eastern Connecticut. And, I couldn't be more pleased!"

Donations are accepted all year. If you are not already part of our Circle of Friends, we hope you will consider becoming a member. To make a donation or to visit our campus, please contact the Development Office at (860) 442-9454 ext. 105.

# WCS Student Update: Kids Learn & Give Back

## WCS STUDENTS DEVELOP NEW SKILLS

At the Louis and Hannah Levine Education Center, Employment Skills Development instructor, Jeremiah Ross has had an eventful semester. His idea may have seemed outrageous to some but he peaked students' interest and around WCS the project became known as the 'construction of the Poultry Palace'. Students learned skills a contractor typically performs; measuring and cutting materials, using hand and electric tools and followed detailed instructions with a specific goal in mind: building a chicken coop fit for farm fowl. They studied the scientific aspect of the hatching process, feeding, and caring for these creatures. At the completion of the project, students and residents of WCS will help the farm look after the chickens.

Jerry meticulously planned for this project and worked with the Development Office to acquire donations. Local supporters like Lowes, Montville Hardware, and Pawcatuck Roofing all provided supplies. The design is unique consisting of purple trimmed windows and a mega coop. Jerry explains, "It's a chicken coop and chicken pen in one. The upper half is the coop itself and the lower half is a fenced-in area where the chickens can safely be on the ground. We're even incorporating a retractable wheel system so the coop can be safely moved to different areas of the farm." We look forward to seeing the kids at WCS hone their farming skills and continue to expand their knowledge.



## GIVING BACK – AN HONORABLE LEGACY

When physical education teacher "Annie" Adams, began to direct Waterford Country School (WCS) students' involvement in the Volunteer Club, she simply wanted kids to learn the importance of giving back. Her students' actions demonstrated their eagerness to participate in giving of their time to help others in Haiti. To help, students implemented a fundraising plan that supported a family in the Caribbean country. They put their plan into action by challenging staff to a series of charitable endeavors. Annie reports that the kids made simple beaded bracelets and bookmarks and sold the original designs to WCS personnel. On Valentine's Day, they offered candies, cookies and flower-grams. Kids even organized a bake sale that prompted WCS employees to donate hand-crafted items that were used in a raffle to raise money for a family. The Volunteer Club used the money to purchase a house for a family on the island.

A letter received from the Haitian Health Foundation (HHF) illustrates the kindness and compassion students showed. The HHF asserts that families in Haiti typically live in hovels made of materials like cardboard and thatch. Clearly, living conditions are inadequate in providing proper protection and its unsanitary conditions place people at high risk for disease. The average cost of a simple cement block house costs \$600 to build. The HHF relies on the generosity of donors to provide funds to build houses for Haitian families. Students exceeded their target goal of \$600 with \$150 to spare. The extra money allowed another family to purchase a goat and meet their needs. WCS is proud of the work students are doing and this is no exception. The HHF's thank you letter tells students, "Your kindness and sharing has allowed us to build a clean, healthy cement block house, with a tin roof, windows and doors. It is a mansion by comparison." Students' participation in the Volunteer Club is teaching them the importance of philanthropy in their community and goodwill all over the world.

< Pictured: Finished Poultry Palace located at the farm

# Achievements & Milestones

## RETIREMENTS

Ana Kemper  
Program Director, Residential Program

## PROMOTIONS

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT  
Robert Edgecomb, Maintenance Supervisor

## RESIDENTIAL

Andrea Grosskurth  
Program Director, Residential Program  
Radhames Echavarria, Supervisor I  
Adrian Jones, Supervisor II  
Theresa Kouris, Supervisor II

## SAFE HOMES

Jocelyn Bell, Lead Child Care Worker  
Nancy Rodriguez, Supervisor I  
Angelina Rodriguez, Supervisor I  
Jonathan Malon, Supervisor II

## FOSTER CARE PROGRAM

Lisa Duzy, Clinical Supervisor  
Lisa Crowley, Assistant Program Director

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### DEGREES

Lisa Duzy, Master of Science in  
Marriage and Family Therapy  
Mary Johnson, Master of Science  
in Special Education

### LICENSURE

Lisa Crowley  
Licensed Professional Counselor  
Emily Sweeney  
Licensed Clinical Social Worker  
Andrea Grosskurth  
Licensed Clinical Social Worker

### CERTIFICATION

Chris Lacey, Yale Leadership Program

### ON DUTY CERTIFICATION

Radhames Echavarria, 100 hours  
Richard Salza, 50 hours

## SYMPATHY NOTES

Gary Saunders, founding family member of WCS and beloved husband of Lorri Saunders and father of Casey Saunders.

Warren Martin, supporter of WCS and beloved father of William Martin, Assistant Executive Director of WCS.

Both men advocated for WCS and were passionate about our cause.

Memorial contributions may be made to:  
The Development Office  
Waterford Country School  
PO Box 408  
Quaker Hill, CT 06375

# WCS News Briefs

## FAMILY FUN DAY – SAVE THE DATE!

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 2011 • 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

The event will take place on the grounds of the Rick McPherson Outdoor Education Center on the Waterford Country School campus.

**JOIN US FOR:** Face painting for kids of all ages! • Pony rides for kids! Learning about animals! • Families enjoy the wagon ride and sing-along!

## GRANTS RECEIVED



AT&T presented the Education Department at WCS with \$5,000 to provide students with vocational training and experiential education opportunities.

AT&T presenting the \$5,000 check (from l - r)  
Pamela Giannelli - Assistant Director, Department of Education  
Sharon Butcher - Director, Department of Education  
Betsy Ritter - State Representative, 38th District  
William Turner - AT&T External & Legislative Affairs

Charter Oak Federal Credit Union provided a \$2,500 grant to support children and youth to learn proper grooming etiquette. The Brio Academy of Niantic is collaborating with us to provide haircuts and other grooming services to children and youth.

The People for Animals & Wildlife (P.A.W.) Fund awarded from the Josephine and Gabriel Sacco Fund managed by the **Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut** donated \$2,000 for the Rick McPherson Outdoor Education Center to construct a migratory flight cage for birds who will rehabilitate on site. We are partnering with a local boys scouts troop to build the cage.

**Bob's Discount Furniture Charitable Foundation** contributed \$400 to assist families in need.

## BIRDIES FOR CHARITIES – UPDATE!

Once again, Waterford Country School participated in Birdies for Charity Fundraiser as part of the Travelers Championship. This year, donors pledged more than \$5,400 to WCS; donors will be invoiced shortly. A special thanks to Board Member and Chairperson, Jerry Levine, who worked zealously to expand financial support.

## NEW HIRE

Julianna Velazquez, Director of Development and Community Support. Previously, she worked in the corporate arena and in higher education as a grants coordinator. She holds a Bachelors degree in General Studies from the University of Connecticut and a Masters degree in Nonprofit Management specializing in Human Services from Northeastern University. She is responsible for annual giving, grant writing, special events, WCS publications, soliciting funds for programs and services as well as the Otto Graham Gymnasium and Activity Center.

# WATERFORD COUNTRY SCHOOL

78 Hunts Brook Road  
PO Box 408  
Quaker Hill, CT 06375  
860-442-9454

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

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## Announcement!

We are pleased to announce that the Development Office has moved. The office is now located on the Second Floor of Main House. For additional information, please call (860) 442-9454 x105.

### If you are interested in donating items from our Wish List

please visit our website at:  
[www.waterfordcountryschool.org](http://www.waterfordcountryschool.org)

## First Annual Golf Tournament

# BRING YOUR MOJO!

*Honoring the memory of Gary "Mr. Six" Saunders*

*Thursday, September 22, 2011 at New London Country Club*

*1:00 p.m. shotgun start and barbeque to follow • \$125.00 Fee*



Gary was suddenly taken away from us January 27th 2011 at the age of 63. He was a beloved husband and father, and a loyal friend to many. He was pilot and philanthropist who was a member of the founding family at Waterford Country School. His mother, Rita Saunders was director of the School's camp programs, and the home that is today known as Rita's House is where Gary grew up. He was a member of the Board of Trustees at Waterford Country School.

Because he enjoyed golf so much, his family and friends are introducing a golf tournament as a way to honor his memory and to raise funds to create "The Gary Saunders Fitness Center" as an integral part of the Otto Graham Gymnasium and Activity Center. In keeping with Gary's spirit, this tournament will be set with FUN in mind.

**Gary's Favorite: Improve your Position!**  
"Six" bucks buys a mulligan for one drive!

**RESERVE YOUR SPOT** – email: [Amsuarez500@gmail.com](mailto:Amsuarez500@gmail.com) or call the New London Country Club (860) 443-6864  
**For more information, please email [development@waterfordcs.org](mailto:development@waterfordcs.org)**

**HOLE IN ONE PRIZE ON HOLE #7: A ROLEX WATCH VALUED AT \$11,900.00! MORE PRIZES TO WIN!**