

UConn coach headlines club’s breakfast fundraiser

By TAYLOR MURCHISON-GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

The Boys and Girls Club of Bristol Family Center hosted a fundraising breakfast that featured University of Connecticut men’s basketball coach, Dan Hurley, and ESPN’s Adrian Wojnarowski.

Club President and CEO, Michael Suchopar, explained that vice president of the board of directors, Mike DellaBianca, met Wojnarowski, and the two started to brainstorm various ways to “raise money to fill the gap we have left in order to pay off this building,” Suchopar said the club is hoping to raise about

\$60,000, in order to have the building paid off by the fifth anniversary of the building, which will be in 2019.

“Where good people work hard good things happen, and here we are with the Coach coming to us and bringing our community together, and hopefully raising some money for our gap too,” said Michael Suchopar, president and CEO of the Club. “The money from the ticket sales, and we have some wonderful sponsors who stepped up to sponsor the event too, so that’s how we’ll be raising the money, and making that gap hopefully smaller and smaller until it’s gone by our fifth anniversary.”

Both Hurley and Wojnarowski discussed how their involvement in the Boys and Girls Clubs in their youth helped to shape who they became today. They also discussed Hurley’s long career as a coach who prides himself on investing his time and energy into his players.

Hurley, who grew up in the Jersey City Boys Club, said the impact of a place like the club can have life changing benefits, whether through gaining a mentor, friends, or skills on and off the basketball court.

Hurley and the Huskies will next face the Manhattan Jaspers on Saturday, Dec. 15, at 8 p.m.



Michael Suchopar, the president and CEO of the Boys and Girls Club of Bristol, right accepts the Blue Spirit Award Driving Great Futures Northeast Gold Award from the Northeast Leadership Conference for Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

Restaurant hosts cash mob but donates funds to Boys and Girls Club

By TAYLOR MURCHISON-GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

Main Street Pint and Plate was the location of the latest cash mob, held on Wednesday, Dec. 5, and this cash mob event offered a special twist.

Instead of helping the business, this cash mob allowed the business to help a local organization, the Boys and Girls Club of Bristol Family Center.

The decision to donate a portion of the funds raised came from J.R. Rusgrove, co-owner of Main Street Pint and Plate, and his desire “to give something back to the community,” said his wife and co-owner Leanne.

Leanne Rusgrove explained that while the “infusion” of cash that is

usually associated with the cash mob is “always nice,” it wasn’t seen as a need for Pint and Plate.

Leanne Rusgrove, co-owner, said the restaurant was very busy the morning of cash mob day. In fact, while Pint and Plate officially opened at 11:30 a.m., customers were “walking in the door at 11:15.”

“I think they were excited to come in and support the cash mob,” said Leanne Rusgrove. “They know a portion of the proceeds will be going to the Boys and Girls Club, and the Boys and Girls Club is very appreciative.”

Sarah Lucian, development and marketing director at the Boys and Girls Club of Bristol Family Center, said the funds donated by Pint and Plate

will be used to support the campership fund. This fund, Lucian said, is specifically used to help send kids to the nine week summer camp program.

The camp program offers attendees “two educational field trips, athletics, and STEM programs,” amongst other activities. The camp is open to students who will be going into grades one through eight in the fall.

Lucian said over 400 kids attended the camp program during the 2018 session.

The Rusgroves’ hope was to be able to continue to support the camp program going forward, and they are brainstorming ways to do so without a cash mob.

PET Project fund to help early learning raised \$20,000 in first year

By TAYLOR MURCHISON-GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

Almost a year after its founding, Early Learning - A PET Project Fund, had raised over \$11,000 in 10 months, with the goal of raising \$20,000 a year. These funds then will go toward supporting Bristol Preschool Child Care Center and Imagine Nation, A Museum Early Learning Center.

Fund founder, Mary-Alice Petrucelli-Timek, established the fund in honor of her brother, John. A PET Project is a designated fund housed at the Main Street Community Foundation.

Petrucelli-Timek hopes to have raised \$100,000 by 2022. She said the main goal of this endowment fund

would be to award Bristol Preschool and Imagine Nation “a certain amount of money on an annual basis so they can be assured of funds.”

“They are grant funded, they are non-profits, which means that if they receive a grant they have to spend out the money by the end of the year,” said Petrucelli-Timek, grant manager for the Bristol Public Schools - School Readiness program. “If you’re allowed to save any money it has to be in a non-interest bearing account. My dream for them was always to have something on a yearly basis - and that’s why I need \$100,000.”

Coral Richardson, executive director of Imagine Nation, Shirley Anderson, executive director of Bristol Preschool, and Marilyn

Lobaczewski, Grant Manager at Bristol Preschool, all said these funds have a great impact in supporting the “quality care and education” provided by their facilities.

“It’s security for the programs - that’s what this is all about,” said Petrucelli-Timek.

All donations that are made to the Early Learning - A PET Project Fund, will be split evenly between Imagine Nation and Bristol Preschool.

For more information regarding the fund, or how to donate, please visit the fund page on the Main Street Community Foundation website, www.mainstreetfoundation.org.



Bristol Hospital and Health Care Group President and CEO Kurt A. Barwis, FACHE, center, is shown in the Bristol Hospital lobby with one of the commemorative ornaments he received from making the first Lights of Love donation of the season. Barwis is shown with Lights of Love Campaign Co-Chairs Tom LaPorte, left, and Leslie Kish, MD.

Lights of Love campaign launched

Bristol Hospital has once again launched its 2018 Lights of Love campaign to support the hospice program of Bristol Homecare and Hospice. Lights of Love started in November as part of National Hospice Month, and assists those in need when facing life-threatening illness. The funds provide families with assistance

such as social work services, complementary therapies to increase comfort, financial assistance and meals for families.

All donors who make a gift of \$25 or more, will receive a commemorative Lights of Love Christmas ornament. Additionally, donors can honor a loved one by having their name displayed on a photo of a

remembrance candle which will be hung on the Christmas tree in the hospital lobby.

To make a donation to Lights of Love, call the Bristol Hospital Development Foundation, (860)585-3365. Volunteers also will be staffing the Lights of Love table located in the Bristol Hospital lobby.

Republicans hold holiday gathering

The Bristol Republican Town Committee will have a holiday gathering on Monday, Dec. 17 from 6 to 8

p.m. at Max Pizza 4 on Middle Street.

There will not be a December regular meeting.

Meetings will continue on the last Monday of the month.