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 the president and executive director of the board of directors, Mike DellaBianca, meets with the club president and CEO, Michael Suchopar, every month, with the goal of helping the business. This cash mob event allowed the business to help raise money for the club. Instead of helping the business, this cash mob allowed the club to raise $20,000 in one year of the PET Project fund to help early learning.

At the 2018 Northeast Leadership Conference for Boys and Girls Clubs of America, the Boys and Girls Club of Bristol Family Center was awarded the Blue Spirit Award and the Driving Great Futures Northeast Gold Award. The Blue Spirit Award, which recognizes an individual who demonstrates the mission of the Club and goes above and beyond to drive impact and make a difference, according to a press release from the club, was presented to Michael Suchopar, president and CEO, Michael Suchopar.

Both Hurley and Wojnarowski started to brainstorm various ways to "raise money to support the camp program during the 2018 sessions," said Lucian. The Boys and Girls Club is very appreciative of the many dedicated staff, volunteers and supporters who make it possible for the organization to have such a profound impact on the lives of countless children and families, said Suchopar. "We are blessed with many individuals who, because of their unique talents, make us a unique youth service organization."

The Driving Great Futures Northeast Gold Award, which "acknowledges the vast number of total children served as well as the provision of high impact programs in a unique variety of settings," was presented to the club in recognition of their role in "opening the way for Boys and Girls Clubs." According to the press release, these awards are "the two highest honors an individual and an organization can achieve with respect to its impact programs in a unique variety of settings."

UConn coach headlines club's breakfast fundraiser

By TAYLOR MURCHISON-GALLAGHER STAFF WRITER

Almost a year after its founding, Early Learning - A PET Project Fund, has raised over $20,000 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 Petrucci-Timke, established the fund in honor of her brother, John. A PET Project is a designat-ed and housed at the Main Street Community Foundation.

Petrucci-Timke hopes to have raised over $100,000 by 2022. She said the main goal of this endowment fund would be to award Bristol Preschool and Imagine Nation's "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 Petrucci-Timke, 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, Marion Treadwell, executive director of Bristol Preschool, and Marilyn Lucian said the decision to donate a portion of the proceeds of the club's cash mob event was always to have some-thing which the club can use to invest in their involvement in the Boys and Girls Clubs in their youth. Hurley 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.

Leanne Rusgrove, co-owner, said the restaurant was very busy as part 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 of Bristol. This is very appreciative of the many dedicated staff, volunteers and supporters who make it possible for the organization to have such a profound impact on the lives of countless children and families," said Suchopar. "We are blessed with many individuals who, because of their unique talents, make us a unique youth service organization."

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