

*Connecticut Junior Republic - Helping & Teaching Youth Since 1904*

# The Junior Citizen

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT JUNIOR REPUBLIC



## ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP DINNER

Helping CJR Students Reach  
Higher Education Goals

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Participate in CJR's Efforts  
to Assist Connecticut  
Youth and Families

## CJR FARM HIGHLIGHTS

A Seasonal Account  
of Activity on CJR's  
Farm in 2016

## SPRING 2017



**W**elcome to the newly redesigned *Junior Citizen*, the newsletter of the Connecticut Junior Republic. The first edition of the *Junior Citizen* was a small, four-page pamphlet, published in 1906. Over the years, this publication has benefited from several redesigns and we are pleased to share this latest issue with friends and volunteers, supporters, parents, alumni and referring agencies. Our new design reflects the increased diversity of our programs in 11 locations across Connecticut and a continuum of care that ranges from prevention and early intervention services to intensive residential programs and services for boys and girls.

CJR is always delighted to provide in-depth information about its programs and services and I am pleased to announce that we will begin offering monthly tours in May as noted below:

May 25	September 21
June 22	October 26
July 27	November 30
August 24	December 21

All tours begin at 10AM. To ensure that each tour is appropriately staffed, we ask that you call the CJR Development Office 48 hours in advance if you plan to attend: (860) 567-9423, ext. 278.

Thank you very much for your continued interest in the Junior Republic and in the boys, girls and families who benefit from our services.

Daniel W. Rezende  
Executive Director

The *Junior Citizen* is published for friends of the Connecticut Junior Republic. A private, not-for-profit organization, the Junior Republic provides care, treatment and education for at-risk, special needs and troubled boys and girls in 11 locations throughout Connecticut. CJR's programs include residential care for boys in Litchfield; special, vocational and alternative education, as well as transition and related services for adolescent boys at the Cable Academic and Vocational Education Center in Litchfield; group home for boys in Winchester; short-term residential care for girls in Waterbury; and community-based programs serving boys, girls, and families in Danbury, East Hartford, Manchester, Meriden, New Britain, New Haven, Torrington, and Waterbury. Charitable contributions from individuals, foundations, organizations and corporations are critical to the Connecticut Junior Republic's ability to provide young people with the opportunities they need to succeed in their homes, schools and communities.

*Executive Director:*

**Daniel W. Rezende**  
M.S.W., L.C.S.W.

*Director of Development and Public Relations:*

**Hedy L. Barton, M.A., C.F.R.E.**

*Director of Human Resources:*

**Katherine M. Budzyn, MBA**

*Director of Community Programs:*

**Ana M. Flamengo, MPA**

*Director of Residential Services:*

**Christine M. Jaffer**  
M.S.W., L.C.S.W.

*Director of Education and Student Services:*

**James K. Obst, MS, CAGS**

*Chief Financial Officer:*

**Patricia A. Shishkov, BS**

*Director of Performance and*

*Quality Improvement:*

**Julianne Torrence, M.S.W., L.C.S.W.**

The Connecticut Junior Republic's annual report is available upon request and on its website:

**[www.ctjuniorrepublic.org](http://www.ctjuniorrepublic.org)**

CJR is accredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA) and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), and a member of the Child Welfare League of America and the Children's League of Connecticut. The Connecticut Junior Republic provides services for children, youth and families of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin.

Primary public support for services is provided by the Judicial Branch, Court Support Services Division (JBCSSD), the Connecticut Department of Children and Families (DCF), the Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) and by Connecticut public schools.





## New Residential Program on Litchfield Campus: CJRRP Makes Three!

**T**he most recent program to open on CJR's Litchfield campus is the Connecticut Junior Republic Residential Program (CJRRP). This four-month residential program serves 24 to 32 young men annually, ages 14 to 18, who have mild to moderate substance abuse treatment needs and may also have co-occurring mental health disorders. CJRRP is funded by the Department of Children and Families (DCF), and incorporates Multidimensional Family Therapy (MDFT) to decrease recidivism, criminal activity, and substance use dependence; improve educational functioning and mental health; and increase stability and overall family functioning. Using evidence and research-based programming and pro-social activities, the CJRRP staff works extensively with boys and their families to ensure re-engagement and connection to family, community, and other support networks. All CJRRP participants attend the Junior Republic's Cable Academic and Vocational Education Center and benefit from the educational, recreational and therapeutic resources located on the organization's 150-acre rural Litchfield campus. "Goals for young men in the CJRRP include reducing substance use, improving academic performance and vocational skills, and planning for family reunification and integration back into their home communities," stated Christine Jaffer, Director of Residential Services.

### OPENING CELEBRATION

CJR celebrated the opening of the CJRRP in the newly-renovated Hartford Cottage on September 22, 2016. The well-attended event featured The Honorable Joette Katz, Commissioner of DCF, as keynote speaker. State Representative Michelle Cook, CJR Executive Director Daniel Rezende and a student speaker – one of the first young men referred to the program – also addressed the approximately 100 guests in attendance.

### THREE RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS IN LITCHFIELD

CJRRP joins two other residential programs located on the Litchfield campus, both funded by the Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division (JBCSSD). Roberts Cottage is home to young men enrolled in the Boys' Intermediate Residential Program (BIRP). This four-month program is designed to engage youths and their families through individual and family clinical services focused on identifying and developing inherent strengths within the family unit to improve the relationships among all members. Boys enrolled in the Therapeutic Respite and Assessment Center (TRAC) reside in Litchfield Colgate Cottage. TRAC is a one to three month program for boys, ages 14 to 17. Services include individual and family therapy that is designed to improve protective factors, increase affective bonds and de-escalate crisis situations.

Utilizing evidence-and research-based programming and pro-social activities, the CJR staff works extensively with boys and their parents or guardians to ensure re-engagement and connection to family, school and other support networks. Comprehensive re-entry strategies are coordinated for boys in all of CJR's residential programs. This planning begins upon admission and ensures a smooth transition when a young man returns to his home and community.



# The CJR Wellness Center:

## Generous Grants Promote Growth and Access to Services



**L**icensed by the Connecticut Department of Children and Families (DCF) at the end of 2013 and officially opened in May of 2015, the Connecticut Junior Republic's Wellness Center Program provides behavioral and mental health services for children, youth and families in locations across Connecticut. Since that time, this program has served boys and girls, 2 to 19 years of age, from 65 Connecticut towns.

Providing services for children and families on an out-patient basis, CJR's Wellness Center Program is located in the Michael P. Mortara Family Center on CJR's Litchfield campus. Services were initially available in Litchfield and Torrington, but thanks to several generous grants, have expanded to include CJR's Danbury, East Hartford, Manchester, Meriden, New Britain, New Haven and Waterbury program sites.

### **RAPID GROWTH**

Since its inception, the Wellness Center program has grown from serving approximately 100 youth and families in fiscal year 2014-15, to more than 300 in 2015-16, and it is anticipated to grow substantially again this year.

The staff is now comprised of three full-time clinicians, 21 per diem clinicians, several clinical interns, and two psychiatrists. Continually monitoring the needs of the children and families it serves, the Wellness Center is committed to utilizing the most effective and current treatment models to help young people.

For example, the Wellness Center has seen a growing demand for services from families with children on the autism spectrum.

With support from the Bachmann Family Charitable Fund, CJR purchased sensory items and art supplies specifically for autistic children. These tools help youths remain grounded, ease anxiety and act as an alternative method of communication for less verbal boys and girls.

Art therapy has proven to be another very effective outlet, and encourages self-expression in young people. It can also help manage behavior, reduce stress, increase self-esteem and self-awareness. In collaboration with DCF and Juvenile Probation, CJR is also developing a program to work with youth who are victims of Human Trafficking.

### **CRITICAL GRANT FUNDING**

The Wellness Center's objective is to provide comprehensive and effective behavioral and mental health care for children and families, while identifying and overcoming obstacles to treatment typically encountered by those seeking services in traditional therapeutic settings. Common barriers include lack of insurance coverage or high-deductible healthcare policies; difficulty maintaining daytime/weekday appointments for working parents; lack of



childcare or transportation; or the need for in-home or in-school support. Generous grants from The Diebold Foundation, Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority (CHEFA) and the Union Savings Bank Foundation, helped CJR establish multiple Wellness Center locations and provide services for families in crisis and those with limited access to care.

Clinical Director Jennifer Grant and her staff work toward identifying and removing obstacles for children and families in need. “The Diebold Foundation grant has allowed us to treat families with logistical and financial limitations, such as lack of transportation or insurance; childcare needs; inflexible work schedules; and other issues creating impediments to care,” she said. “This grant allowed us to send clinicians to work with families in their homes and communities and to provide wrap-around services to meet their needs. We’re always looking for ways to remove barriers and this grant provided support for non-billable services and has enabled us to offer a greater level of coverage,” she explained.

### GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND

Striving for quality and accessibility, Wellness Center clinicians work on floating schedules, which accommodate the needs of families in crisis. CJR clinicians are also trained in an array of areas, including substance abuse, behavioral and conduct issues, family conflict, family mediation, developmental adjustment issues, parenting issues, and trauma-related issues – allowing children and families with complex needs to be served under one roof.

### EVIDENCE-BASED THERAPY

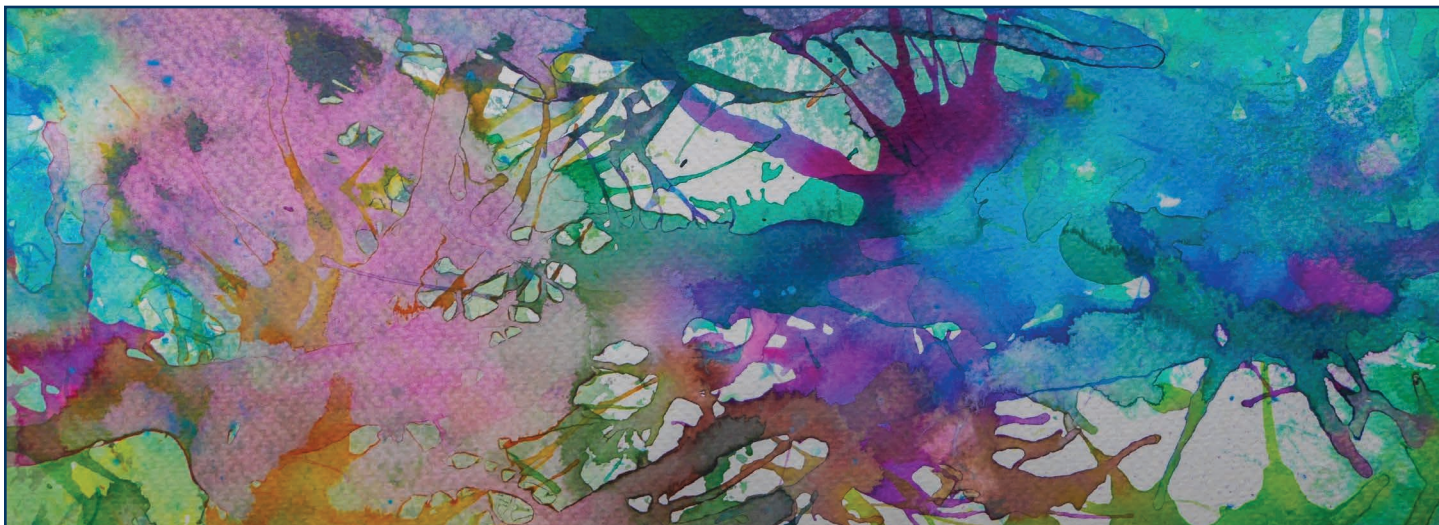
The Wellness Center staff are licensed and trained in several evidence-based treatment models, including: Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) and Modular Approach to Therapy for Children with Anxiety, Depression, Trauma, or Conduct Problems (MATCH-ADTC). Only 15 agencies in Connecticut are staffed with MATCH-ADTC trained clinicians. Both therapies are considered state-of-the-art, research-based

models with treatment tailored to each child’s specific characteristics and needs.

Ms. Grant explained the nuances of trauma and its importance in treating young people. “If a child is exhibiting a change in behavior or escalating behavioral issues, we always ask if there has been a traumatic experience. The word ‘trauma’ infers a significant event like school shootings, terrorism or rape,” she said. “But, trauma and its effects are very personal. For a child this could be divorcing parents, death of a loved one or pet, or the loss of friends due to a move,” she explained. “When we ask about trauma, the first reaction might be ‘no,’ but when we dig deeper, our clinicians can usually identify latent trauma that might not have been considered,” she said.

CJR’s Wellness Center services are available with or without a referral. All major insurances are accepted, including HUSKY. In the event services are not covered or there is a deductible, charges are based on a sliding scale. “We have never turned anyone away or refused service for inability to pay,” stated Ms. Grant. “We encourage anyone who needs assistance to contact us – we’re here to help,” she said. For information or to make an appointment at one of CJR’s eight Wellness Center locations, please call (860) 567-9423, ext. 325.

*Artwork created by children participating in CJR art therapy programs.*



# CJR Scholarships: Encouraging Outstanding Students

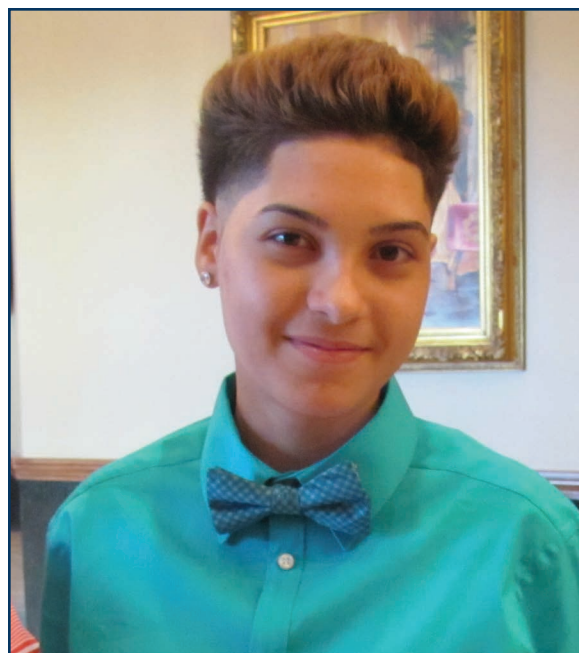


**O**n Thursday June 1, 2017, CJR will hold the 16th Annual Scholarship Dinner at La Bella Vista in Waterbury. This popular event is expected to draw a remarkable attendance of up to 400 sponsors, guests, scholarship recipients and family members. The evening starts at 6:30 PM and includes a buffet dinner of salad, pasta, choice of chicken or fish, potatoes, vegetables and chocolate mousse cake for dessert. Scholarships will be awarded to students served by CJR's community-based programs in Danbury, East Hartford, Manchester, Meriden, New Britain (two locations), New Haven, Torrington and Waterbury. Applicants who are enrolled in or entering a higher education program or a trade school following high school graduation are eligible for support. Scholarship funds may also assist program participants who are entering the U.S. Armed Forces to serve their country and learn new skills.

## SETTING RECORDS

In 2016, the Scholarship Dinner set three new records. Over 300 guests attended, representing 50% more than any prior year. Scholarships were awarded to 19 CJR boys and girls, exceeding the prior year's number of recipients by six students (also a record). Last, but certainly not least, approximately \$20,000 in net proceeds was raised, almost three times the amount netted the previous year. This year's event is on track to break more records. Thanks to an incredible kick-start from the Patricia S. Heyman Foundation, \$7,500 has already been pledged, along with a \$1,000 challenge grant from the Connecticut Community Foundation, for funds raised the evening of the event. According

to CJR Staff Scholarship Committee Chair and Waterbury Program Supervisor, David Burgos, over 40 students are eligible for consideration this year, more than double the record-breaking 19 recipients from 2016. In prior years, CJR has been able to ensure that all eligible candidates received assistance. This year will be a challenge due to the large number of eligible applicants. CJR's Executive Director, Daniel Rezende, is optimistic. "Every year we try to





develop new and creative ways to raise the funds needed to keep the program viable and make sure everyone who is eligible is awarded a scholarship," he said. "While recognizing top-performers is important, we try to assist all kids who make it to graduation and are accepted into programs for continuing education," he stated.

## PAST AND PRESENT

The Annual Scholarship Dinner was established in 2002 by Mr. Rezende – who was CJR's Waterbury Program Director at the time – exclusively for students participating in programs in this location. "We were seeing excellent results in getting kids to graduation, only to realize they lacked funds to continue their educations," Mr. Rezende recalled. "We wanted to develop a way to help keep momentum," he said. Mr. Rezende, along with a handful of CJR staff, pooled their own funds to create two scholarships for the first Scholarship Dinner. The inaugural event was held in the gymnasium of CJR's Waterbury location and a pasta dinner was prepared by CJR's culinary arts students enrolled in the Success Always Follows Education (SAFE) program. Over the last 16 years the program has grown exponentially and is now open to applicants in all of CJR's nine community programs. In order to accommodate the growth in attendance, the event was moved to La Bella Vista in Waterbury in 2016. Staff contributions are now bolstered by grants, sponsors and other donations, and the number of scholarship recipients keeps growing.

## HOW IT WORKS

Two dedicated committees support the Scholarship Dinner event. The Honorary Committee, comprised of CJR Board members, alumni and community supporters, provides leadership through sponsorship and attendance. The CJR Staff Committee reviews applications, determines eligibility and encourages leadership support and attendance from members of the CJR staff. Scholarship recipients are selected based on a combination of need and merit. An acceptance letter from the bursar's office of the institution they are to attend is required for consideration and all scholarship proceeds are sent directly to the institution; needed supplies are purchased and distributed to students by CJR staff.

## BRIGHT FUTURES

Past recipients have gone on to institutions of higher education, including Johnson and Wales University, University of Massachusetts, Naugatuck Valley Community College, Porter and Chester Institute, and Post University and are pursuing degrees in Business Administration, Education, Nursing, Forensic Science, Culinary Arts and Marketing. "Remarkable successes have been



achieved by some of our scholarship recipients," Mr. Burgos stated. He recalled two outstanding instances. A young man entered the SAFE Program at the time he was learning English as a second language. Upon graduation, he was awarded a scholarship. He attended Full Sail University in Winter Park, Florida, later joining the Marines. He became a combat journalist. Upon discharge he relocated to Singapore and now works as a Content Manager for NASDAQ (the second-largest stock exchange in the world) in addition to operating his own independent film company. Another SAFE program student who received a CJR scholarship went to the University of Virginia and upon completing her Master's degree in social work, returned to CJR to work as a clinician.

According to Mr. Burgos, the Scholarship Dinner is the culmination of staff and kids working together to overcome obstacles. "Seeing the scholarship recipients standing at the podium, speaking about their experience at CJR, as well as their future goals, is a very rewarding experience for all involved," he said.

To attend this special event, become a sponsor or make a donation, please see page 8 for more information.

**NOTE:** CJR also provides scholarships for alumni of its residential and Litchfield-based education programs through a separate Scholarship Fund supported by The Litchfield Aid and other CJR friends.

# EVE



## MAY 6

### The Litchfield Aid of CJR Presents: ***HORSES AND HATS IN THE HILLS***

On Saturday, May 6th, The Litchfield Aid of CJR presents *Horses and Hats in the Hills*, a Kentucky Derby themed fundraiser for the benefit of the Connecticut Junior Republic. This gala event will be held from 4:30 to 9:30 PM at The Tavern Off The Green at The Litchfield Inn (432 Bantam Road, Litchfield). The benefit will feature the 143rd Kentucky Derby, a buffet dinner, open bar, music, dancing, and a special performance by The Nutmeg Dancers. A live auction, a 50/50 raffle, and a hat contest will also be a part of the evening festivities.

*Horses and Hats in the Hills* follows in the very fashionable footsteps of the Aid's past events, *High Stakes in the Hills* and *High Style in the Hills*, and promises to be another night of not-to-miss fun.

The Litchfield Aid of CJR is a nonprofit volunteer organization that has been raising funds for the sole benefit of the Connecticut Junior Republic for more than 100 years. Since its inception, The Aid has contributed more than \$2.5 million to CJR. Learn more about The Litchfield Aid on page 14.

For information on all events  
contact CJR's Development Office:  
(860) 567-9423, ext. 278,  
or visit our website:  
[www.ctjuniorrepublic.org](http://www.ctjuniorrepublic.org)



## JUNE 1

### 16th Annual **SCHOLARSHIP DINNER**

CJR will hold its 16th Annual Scholarship Dinner at La Bella Vista, located at 380 Farmwood Road, Waterbury, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM, on Thursday, June 1st.

Proceeds raised at this event will provide scholarships for boys and girls who are associated with CJR's community-based programs throughout Connecticut. These scholarships will assist students in obtaining a college, university, or technical school education. Scholarships may also support students who have enlisted to serve their country in the United States Armed Forces or Job Corps, and need financial assistance in fulfilling this commitment.

Tickets to attend the event are available until May 11, 2017, for \$30 each and include a buffet dinner. Other levels of sponsorship are available and donations are always welcomed. Please contact CJR's Development Office for more information.

A record-breaking 19 scholarships were awarded at the 2016 Scholarship Dinner. It is anticipated that even more students will be presented with scholarships at this year's event. Please see page 6 to learn more about this incredibly important program's history.



# NTS



**JUNE 19**

**22nd Annual**

## **CJR INVITATIONAL - GOLF BENEFIT**

On Monday, June 19th, the 22nd Annual *CJR Invitational* Golf Benefit will be held at the Torrington Country Club, a 6,700 yard, Par 72 golf course. Various levels of sponsorship are available - please see previous page for CJR's contact and website information.

The 2016 *CJR Invitational* was held on a beautiful sunny day, and supported by nearly 300 sponsors, golfers and volunteers. This event netted nearly \$65,000, bringing the total funds raised by this event (since its 1996 inception) to over \$1.3 million. All of the funds raised are used to assist CJR in providing care, treatment and education programs for nearly 2,000 boys, girls and families served annually.

This year's event includes luncheon, an 18-hole golf tournament, followed by a cocktail reception, with carving stations, a variety of hot and cold hors d'oeuvres and a dessert table. An awards ceremony and prize drawings will wrap up the evening.

Join *CJR Invitational* Founding Chairman Gregory Oneglia, Vice Chairman of O&G Industries, and Chairman Robert Phelan, Chairman and CEO of TriPoint, along with NBC-30 news celebrities Gerry Brooks and Bob Maxon, for a beautiful day on the links.



**OCTOBER 8**

**5th Annual**

## **CARS FOR KIDS - AUTOMOBILE SHOW**

CJR, in collaboration with Valley Collector Car Club and the Litchfield Hills Historical Automobile Club, is pleased to announce the 5th Annual *Cars for Kids* Automobile Show on Sunday, October 8th (rain date October 15).

This growing event welcomed nearly 350 exhibitors and 850 spectators in 2016, and is anticipated to draw even more automobiles to CJR's Litchfield campus this year.

Gates open at 8 AM for exhibitors and registration is \$10 per car. The first 200 show car registrants receive exhibitor bags. The first 100 exhibitors will also receive dashboard plaques. Spectator gates open at 10 AM and admission is \$5 per car (unlimited occupancy). Contact CJR's Development Office to learn more about sponsorships or to pledge a donation for exhibitor bags.

Students will be serving lunch in the D'Assern Dining Room and there will be hamburgers, hot dogs, beverages and other treats at the Food Court. Spectacular baked goods will be offered at The Litchfield Aid's bake sale tent and CJR's Roadside Market will be open, offering seasonal produce, flowers and pumpkins, grown on the Junior Republic's farm, as well as products made in vocational classes.

There will be fun for the whole family, including hayrides, face and pumpkin painting, and a scavenger hunt!

# Buel Society Members Donald and Polly Robinson: Love of Faith, Children and Cars Drives Legacy to CJR

For nearly 25 years, Avon residents Donald W. Robinson and his wife, Pauline ("Polly" to friends and family) were loyal friends and supporters of the Connecticut Junior Republic. Don passed away on May 3, 2014, at the age of 92, but his legacy of support to the Connecticut Junior Republic and the thousands of boys and girls served annually, will live on through the Annual *Cars for Kids* Automobile Show, which he played a critical role in establishing in 2013, and through a generous bequest, which CJR received at the end of 2016.

Shortly after moving to Avon in 1965, the Robinsons were introduced to CJR through the Open House Day Tour of Litchfield. Conducted for 62 years by the Litchfield Aid of CJR for the sole benefit of the Junior Republic, this event attracted many tour-goers to CJR's Litchfield campus. Like many other House Tour visitors, Don and Polly eventually became supporters of CJR as a result of meeting students and staff, and learning about the important work of the organization.

"The Junior Republic was on the Tour and Don loved what CJR did for youth," recalled Mrs. Robinson of their first visit. "He had a real understanding of how important it is to support at-risk children and to provide them with positive role models," she noted. "Don felt that CJR provided the 'magic combination' of emotional support and life skills that could help them be successful in their adult lives," said Mrs. Robinson.

An aerospace engineer, Don Robinson met his future wife on a blind date. He was in the U.S. Army at the time and they were both 24. The Robinsons were married in their home state of Wisconsin on February 6, 1947 – just days after the Great Milwaukee Blizzard. The newlyweds survived the blizzard and soon moved to Milford, Connecticut – each to start a new job at Chance Vought, an aerospace company – she as a technical designer and he as an engineer. After moving with the company to Dallas, Texas for a career opportunity, the Robinsons returned a few years later for an even better offer in Connecticut, and then started a family.

According to Louise Robinson Talotta, the couple's oldest daughter, the Robinson family soon included four children – two girls and two boys – and a Beagle. "Bunny the Beagle was mom and dad's first child," explained Mrs. Talotta with a smile, "and then she had me, Doug, Gordon and Paula," she laughed.

Don Robinson's career took him to Kaman Aerospace in 1953, where he eventually became a vice president. After retiring from Kaman, Don worked as a consultant and was able to spend more time with his family and to pursue his many interests. "Dad's main themes were always airplanes, music, and sailing," recalled his daughter. "When he was 22 years old, he bought himself a Model A Ford," she said. Mrs. Talotta recalled her father's other cars, including a



*Don and Polly Robinson pictured on Easter Day 2012.*

1932 Auburn Cabriolet four passenger, 1956 MGA roadster and a rusted out Pinto that he used as his "main wheels." He eventually converted the Pinto into a 1924 Mercedes SK Roadster which the family still drives.

During his lifetime, Don Robinson contributed to more than 75 charities, carefully evaluating those that he considered for a bequest. "CJR was one of six organizations that he included in his will," said Polly Robinson. She mentioned that she and her husband were interested in supporting CJR for several reasons. "There is so much genuine concern for the whole child," she said. "CJR's approach



is very holistic," continued Mrs. Robinson, "all of the child's needs – physical, mental, educational, and emotional – are addressed. The child – as well as the family – is helped so the young person can become a successful adult," she explained.

"It takes you awhile to feel secure about the organizations you are supporting, but CJR is very reputable and open, and unique in its mission," she noted. "Its reputation is excellent and makes us feel very confident," said Mrs. Robinson.

Polly Robinson and her family are very proud of Don Robinson's unique role in the inception of the Annual *Cars for Kids* Automobile Show. A member of the Simsbury-based Valley Collector Car Club (VCCC) for many years, Don persuaded the Club to make CJR one of the charitable beneficiaries of its annual automobile show. The Junior Republic began receiving generous annual contributions from the VCCC in 2010, but did not learn that Mr. Robinson was the catalyst for these gifts until a group of four Club members came to present their annual donation in autumn of 2012. The members expressed VCCC's interest in helping the Junior Republic establish an annual automobile show and committed their Club's support and involvement to do so. The VCCC also enlisted the participation of the Litchfield Hills Historical Automobile Club in this charitable venture to benefit CJR and the first *Cars for Kids* Automobile Show was held on Sunday, October 13, 2013. Don Robinson spent the day in the registration tent and personally welcomed the nearly 140 exhibitors, 100 volunteers and 100 spectators who attended the event. More than \$4,000 was raised in net proceeds to benefit the Junior Republic.

Fast forward to 2016 and the 4th Annual *Cars for Kids* Automobile Show, which had record attendance, including nearly 350 exhibitor cars, 850 spectators and more than 100 staff, student, community and car club volunteers. The event raised nearly \$25,000 in net proceeds, with another year of record sales at CJR's Farm Market.

The 5th Annual *Cars for Kids* Automobile Show will be held on Sunday, October 8 (rain date October 15). According to Larry Boardman, President of the Valley Collector Car Club and Glenn Royals, President of the Litchfield Hills Historical Automobile Club, this car show is now regarded as a "destination event," and its growth is expected to continue. Every year, members of the Robinson Family select a car to receive the Donald W. Robinson Memorial Trophy in honor of Mr. Robinson's special role in the founding of this event.

Mrs. Robinson, now age 95, recently noted that she and her husband were influenced by their faith in making charitable decisions. "It is everyone's responsibility to share what they have with others, to the best of their ability. CJR is dependent on individual support to make a difference in the quality of its programs, and we wanted to share our good fortune," she continued. "CJR has a direct impact and makes a substantial difference in the lives of children who are at-risk."

*To learn more about The Buel Society, which recognizes those who include CJR in their estate planning, please contact CJR Director of Development, Hedy Barton (860) 567-9423, ext. 252; or email: [hbarton@cjryouth.org](mailto:hbarton@cjryouth.org).*

**Is the work of the Connecticut Junior Republic important to you?** Please consider including CJR in your estate plan. Your legacy will help ensure that the Junior Republic can continue to help at-risk and troubled youth become contributing members of society.

Here are ten suggestions to consider in leaving a legacy to a charitable organization, such as CJR:

1. See your legal or financial advisor about your will or estate plan.
2. Prepare a will. If you don't let people know what you want done with your belongings, others will decide for you.
3. Leave a gift in your will for the non-profit organizations that you feel strongly about.
4. Consider your assets carefully. Gifts to charity of stocks, bonds, real estate, certificates of deposit, savings bonds and other items of value, may provide tax savings.
5. Remember loved ones by making memorial or honorary bequests to charities.
6. Use a life insurance policy for a gift and name your favorite charity as the beneficiary.
7. Use retirement funds to leave a legacy to charity. When given to heirs, these are often the most highly taxed assets in an estate.
8. Ask your professional advisor about how gifts to charity (including charitable gift annuities) can reduce taxes to your estate.
9. Celebrate your legacy and consider informing the charity of your gift so your vision and generosity can be recognized.
10. Encourage your family and friends to leave gifts to charities, such as the Junior Republic, in their wills.



Connecticut Junior Republic is a participant in LEAVE A LEGACY CONNECTICUT, a statewide public awareness effort to promote charitable giving through wills and estates.

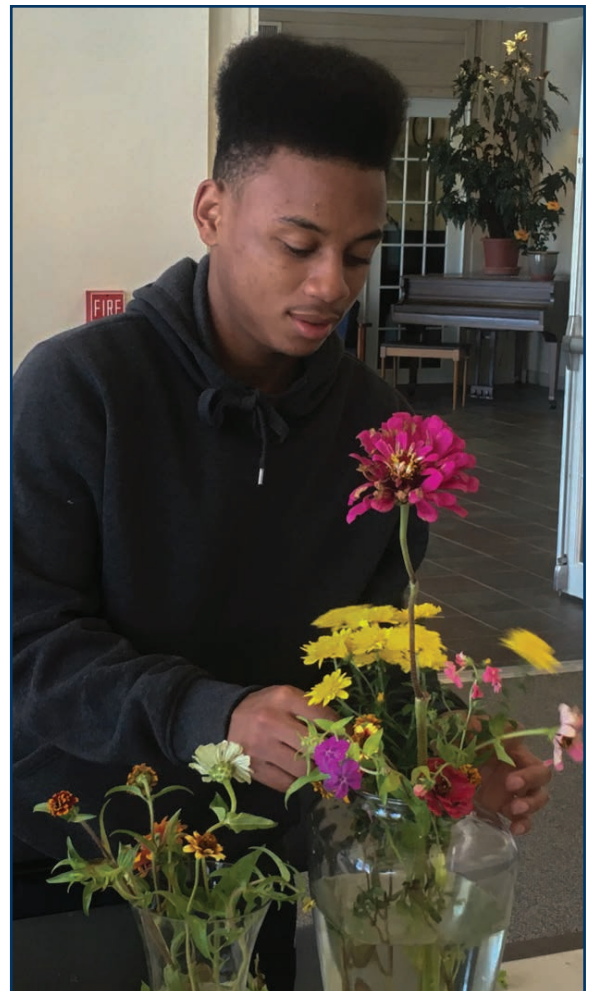
# The CJR Farm: Highlights of the Year



**T**he Connecticut Junior Republic's Litchfield campus has been home to a working farm for most of its 113-year history. Early in the CJR farm history, residents included dairy cattle and draft animals used to transport pond ice for refrigeration. Students grew produce on the farm to be used for their own sustenance. Today, the farm is an educational platform for agriculture, including animal and plant science, two of the eight vocational programs offered at CJR's Cable Academic and Vocational Education Center (CAVEC). Regardless of the era, the farm's impact has always been evident: students with an active role in nurturing plants and animals are positively influenced. Now more than ever, young people from CJR's residential, education, community and Wellness Center programs benefit from the Farm's educational and therapeutic resources.

Farm Manager and Animal Science Instructor Eric Elwell assembled a written account of the year's activities. This is an abbreviated version of all the valuable learning and hard work accomplished on the CJR farm.

**WINTER:** Five heifers and one bull were born on the CJR farm. The Hereford calves were all girls (Crystal, Brady and Zara). The Angus heifer calves were named Lilly and Emma (named by one of CJR's boys after his sister, for their shared birthday). The only bull was named Sport – hopefully a good sport! Less snowfall than usual allowed for more time for outdoor curriculum subjects, including: selective tree removal, forest clean-up, invasive species control





and firewood production. Roughly nine cords were chopped, which is the equivalent of approximately 40,000 pounds of wood! In February, the CJR maple trees were tapped, and by March were producing considerable quantities of sap. Thanks to CJR's partnership with Brookview Sugarhouse in Morris, new technology in maple sugaring has been incorporated into the vocational curriculum.

**SPRING:** During the spring season a combination of 50-plus piglets, kid goats and lambs were born on the farm. Students are actively engaged in all stages of life, from birth to postnatal care of newborns, as well as monitoring and managing the well-being of the new mothers. During this time, garden seeds were sown, hay was harvested and fence repairs were made. Baby animal care was a great incentive to get through the less exciting, but necessary work associated with operating a farm.

**SUMMER:** The dry winter/spring, in addition to a lot of hard work, yielded an unprecedented 2,000 bales of hay harvested in June. This was welcome news for the many hungry mouths on the farm. Four heifers were selected, including two born earlier in the year, to be shown at the Goshen Fair held in the fall. Participating in this competitive event requires considerable investments in time, patience and dedication. Throughout the summer, gardens were irrigated, weeded and maintained in anticipation of the bountiful harvest of many varieties of fruits and vegetables. CJR's fish farm realized its first substantial harvest of tilapia under the supervision and direction of Plant Science Instructor, Raymond Budny. Thanks to a grant from the Sue B. Hart Foundation, the fish farm project commenced in 2015. After a period of trial and error, this successful harvest demonstrated to the students that patience and determination ultimately pays off.

**FALL:** A flurry of activity marked the beginning of the fall season. Over Labor Day weekend, four perfectly coiffed bovines (Anna, Ivy, Crystal and Brady) arrived at the Goshen Fair. The CJR heifer contingent earned many high-ranking ribbons, including division championships. This was an extremely rewarding experience for the students who worked so hard to make this accomplishment a reality. September saw the arrival of four new babies, three bulls and one heifer, named Scarlet. Over Columbus Day weekend, CJR participated in the Cow Power Sale in Millbrook, New York. For the third consecutive year, the Junior

Republic's cow/calf pairs were the top sellers of the day, distinguishing CJR's stock for future events. The CJR Farm Market operated most weekends in October, offering produce grown on the farm and decorative objects made by students in CJR's other vocational classes. During the 4th Annual *Cars for Kids* Automobile Show, the Farm Market realized its highest grossing day ever! Thanks to the abundant harvest of squash this season, CJR donated large quantities of produce to local organizations, providing hot meals to the poor and homeless. In preparation for the holidays, CJR's students made wreaths and swags and tended to the beautiful poinsettias growing in the CJR greenhouse.

CJR strongly believes the seasonal evolution of the vocational agriculture program is a precious resource for the students who participate in this educational experience. The recurring themes reverberate throughout the year: determination and perseverance produces tangible rewards; important lessons for us all.



# THE LITCHFIELD AID OF CJR

In Autumn of 2016, The Litchfield Aid of CJR contributed \$87,310 to the Connecticut Junior Republic. This gift included net proceeds from several fundraising events conducted during the year and represented one of The Aid's largest annual contributions to CJR. These funds will make a vital difference to the Junior Republic's ability to provide innovative programs and a therapeutic environment for young people.

The Litchfield Aid of CJR was founded in 1911 by 12 Litchfield women for the sole purpose of supporting the programs and facilities of CJR. Since its inception, The Aid has contributed more than \$2.5 million to the Junior Republic and has played a significant role in providing financial support to many of the academic, vocational and well-being programs in place at the Connecticut Junior Republic.

The Aid conceptualizes, plans and conducts unique events to raise funds and awareness to benefit CJR. This year's event, *Horses and Hats in the Hills*, a Kentucky Derby Extravaganza, will be held on Saturday, May 6th (see details on page 8).

A volunteer, auxiliary organization, The Aid continually seeks additional members to provide leadership as goodwill ambassadors in the community and to assist CJR in its mission of providing care, treatment, education and family support for at-risk, special needs and troubled young people so they can become productive and fulfilled members of their homes, schools and communities.

For information on joining The Aid, contact Hedy Barton, Director of Development and Public Relations (860) 567-9423, ext. 252; or by email: [hbarton@cjryouth.org](mailto:hbarton@cjryouth.org).



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*The following tributes were received between June 1, 2013 and March 31, 2017. These contributions honor the memory of the departed and celebrate special friendships and occasions, while helping CJR transform the lives of children and families.*

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**MISSION:** The mission of the Connecticut Junior Republic (CJR) is to provide care, treatment, education and family support for at-risk, special needs and troubled young people so they can become productive and fulfilled members of their communities.

**VALUES:** CJR believes that if given the opportunity, every young person has the potential to develop the skills, self-discipline and social responsibility necessary for a rewarding and worthwhile life. CJR values every family as a critical partner in the treatment process. The agency believes that whenever possible, it is most desirable to work with young people and their families within their own communities. When out-of-home services are required, the family must be valued and included as an important and equal partner in the treatment process.



*Junior Citizen Design: Hilary Adorno*