



## BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF BURLINGTON



***A safe, positive place for kids:*** These simple words create the concept of a physical location, a connection to those who care, and a foundation for success. These simple words promise each child that there is at least one place where he or she will hear messages of hope and encouragement. And, these simple words define the **Boys & Girls Club of Burlington** in the midst of a world that is often complicated for today's youth.

This year the Club reached more than two thousand deserving children, many coming from families with very limited resources, who live in shelters, or who may live in single parent and guardian homes. Unfortunately, many Club kids are not strangers to the effects of poverty, abuse and addiction. Because of these hardships, we are determined to fulfill our mission to enable all children, especially those who need us the most in this community, to become productive, caring and responsible citizens. Through dedicated staff and enriching programs, the Boys & Girls Club is helping to develop all that is positive in a child.

Over the last twelve months, the Club celebrated the completion of extensive renovations. With the additions of new technology, digital arts, and music infrastructure we are able to reach more kids with programs that help develop skills, confidence and higher aspirations. In recognition of these accomplishments, our college readiness program **KnowHow2GO**, which helps middle school children begin to achieve the dream of a college education, was recently honored with the New England Board of Higher Education's Robert J. McKenna Program Achievement Award.



With a new digital arts lab that includes digital photography and audio-visual recording and editing, the Club is remaining relevant with the changing times. As a result, we were proud to have our Club member's photo essay win the 2007 **Circuit City ImageMakers** National Photography Contest, which included a trip to San Francisco to be honored by artists who support the Boys & Girls Club movement.

Most importantly, the Club continues to be a safe haven for children and teens who may not otherwise have a place to turn. With caring staff, innovative programs and much more, the Boys & Girls Club of Burlington is truly changing lives, one child at a time.

Indeed, the Club has much to be thankful for this year. Our new Executive Director Mary Alice McKenzie has been on board since May and is providing boundless energy and vision, along with the great support of our Board of Directors, including longtime Board member and supporter Bob Cain who works tirelessly to deliver on the promise of sustaining a safe, positive place for kids. We are fortunate to have reached new heights and to provide so much more for the children in this community. We invite you to come see the Club in action!