

Futures

WINTER 2011

Upcoming Events

Save the Date:

1st Annual JA High School Business Challenge

March 25, 2011
9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Fairfield University,
Dolan School of Business

For sponsorship opportunities please contact Julia DeMeo, Director of Development at 203-382-0180 x19 or jdemeo@jawct.org



To Sponsor an Issue of *Futures*...

Please contact:
Bernadine Venditto - President
Junior Achievement of Western CT
203-382-0180 x13
bvenditto@jawct.org

To Donate -
<http://firstgiving.com/jabridgeportCT>

GE – A True Believer in JA

The GE Foundation began making grants in 1953 to non-profit organizations for charitable, scientific, literacy and educational purposes. The Foundation impacts many GE communities around the world through its support of dynamic and innovative programs that encourage “educational opportunity and community success.” GE and Junior Achievement have enjoyed a very successful, long term educational partnership on both a worldwide and local basis. The GE Foundation has collaborated with JA Worldwide to provide grants to JA offices where GE has a presence. JA of Western CT is one such area office.

The local GE Volunteer Council of Fairfield has partnered with JA over numerous years in providing volunteers and funding for JA programs in schools throughout the region. The council’s funding proposal for JA of Western CT was approved by the GE Foundation, and as a result, JA of Western CT received a \$20,000 grant for the 2010-2011 school year, which will allow Blackham School and Columbus School in Bridgeport to experience JA programs. The GE Foundation continues to build on its proud history and leverage the best of GE – people, ideas and resources – to make its communities stronger all over the world. We are very pleased and proud to have GE play such a major role in Junior Achievement as we partner to help students in K-12 develop entrepreneurial skills, become financially literate and workforce ready. Thank you GE for being a friend and supporter of the JA mission!

GE Employees Give Back



JA of Western CT is proud to welcome **Craig Winslow**, Chief Risk Officer for GE Capital, to the Danbury Community Board in Spring 2010. Craig generously supports JA programs throughout the Danbury area and with his leadership, GE Capital was a great supporter of the Golf Invitational. Thank you, Craig, for your exceptional contribution to JA of Western Connecticut.

Jennifer Murphy-Pitcher, Sales Coordinator for GE Corporate Aircraft in Danbury, was honored as one of the volunteer of the year awardees for 2010 at our Annual Spirit of Achievement



Breakfast at Ridgewood Country Club in Danbury on June 2, 2010. Jennifer first started her JA career teaching first grade at St. Joseph’s School in Danbury where she teamed up with a colleague.

For the past four years, Jennifer has been the GE relationship manager for JA and has been active in recruiting volunteers and coordinating other JA activities within GE. As Jennifer recently completed her tenth year as a volunteer consultant with JA, it is certainly fitting that she was honored as an outstanding volunteer. Jennifer is a pleasure to work with and has done a truly effective job in marshalling up GE resources. Thank you, Jennifer!

OVER

Robert O'Connor, Sr. Vice President of Beardsley, Brown & Bassett, Leads JA of Western Connecticut as New Board Chair

Junior Achievement of Western Connecticut is fortunate to have an innovative local volunteer board of directors comprised of business, education, and civic leaders who set the policy and direction for Western Connecticut. Robert O'Connor, Sr. Vice President of Beardsley, Brown & Bassett, served as a member of the Board of Directors of JA of Western CT for five years before his recent appointment as the new Chairman of the Board.

Robert started as a classroom volunteer with JA of Western CT twenty years ago in Bridgeport teaching "Project Business" to 7th and 8th grade classes. He thoroughly enjoys teaching in the

classroom and recalls the Stock Market game, which was held at the end of the year and organized by Harriet Rago, former Vice President of Programs at JA of Western CT, as one of the big hit highlights of the JA program. Robert is honored when students approach him outside of the classroom, say hello and mention that they remember him from the JA class he taught in their school.

Throughout his various experiences as a business executive, Board member and classroom volunteer, Robert is adamant that JA of Western CT's core mission of "work readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy," is more critical now than ever! Paving the way as the new Board

chair, Robert plans "to continue the great progress we have made in restructuring and building our Boards, strengthening our financial position, and ensure that our programming is high quality and impactful, particularly in the middle schools and high schools."

Please visit our website at <http://www.jaconnecticut.com/> for a complete list of all board members serving on the JA of Western Connecticut Board of Directors.



JA Launches "The Company" Program with Park City Prep in Bridgeport, CT

JA of Western CT has launched its first "Company" educational program this year with Park City Prep/Charter School. Supported by a very strong and enthusiastic volunteer group through the Ganim Group in

Bridgeport, CT, these dedicated volunteers have hit the ground running. Working closely with Beverly A. Balaz, Director of Education, they have worked for weeks behind the scenes planning the details of the program to ensure effective and timely delivery of curriculum to these students.

On November 12th, Beverly and the volunteer group made a presentation to the entire class of 7th and 8th graders, totaling approximately 200 students. Bruce Ravage, Executive Director, opened with the announcement of an "exciting opportunity" for students who wanted to learn more about entrepreneurship. Larry Ganim, President, followed next with opening remarks: "Dreams are Possible" and explained the details of the "Company" program along with a Q&A. For every good question asked, a gold-foiled wrapped chocolate coin was given to each student. Beverly finished by showing

a classroom video and provided a wrap-up overview of the student benefits for those who participate in JA's educational programs.

At the end of the presentation, students were asked to take home a flier and permission form for their parents to review and sign. Approximately 35 students responded with a yes, and the school staff selected 20. The educational program began on November 30, 2010 as an after school program.

Once the educational program is completed, the next step is to have these students speak about their JA experience before the 6th grade audience and get them excited about becoming a participant next year, as they enter 7th grade. Arrangements for press coverage at this event will be made upon completion.



This issue was sponsored by: Old Gate Consulting

Old Gate, Where People and Technology Meet! Founded in 2001, Old Gate Consulting, LLC (OGC) was formed to provide small to medium size companies with high quality network consulting services with an emphasis on customer service and satisfaction. OGC has been helping businesses with their computing needs since 2000 in Connecticut, New York and Massachusetts. They provide a variety of IT services, and it is evident that OGC prides itself on being "Connecticut's Networking Specialist." Most recently, the founder of OGC, Bart Henderson, volunteered his time, expertise, and IT knowledge and teamed up with Pepperidge Farm's IT team to help JA of Western Connecticut make a much needed advancement to upgrade the technology systems in its Bridgeport, CT office in order to operate more efficiently. Many thanks to Pepperidge Farm's IT team and Bart Henderson of OGS for advancing JA of Western CT's IT systems quickly!



In Loving Memory of Dr. George Dunbar

George was a great supporter, board member and friend to JA. We all loved George and he will be dearly missed. To donate to the George Dunbar JA Endowment fund, please contact us.



JA of Western CT is grateful for the generosity of all 2009-10 donors. Please visit our website at <http://www.jaconnecticut.com> for a complete listing.

Happy New Year to all of our volunteers and donors. We are grateful for all that you do and know that we couldn't be successful without you!



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