

JPPF 2011 YEAR IN REVIEW

JOHN PATRICK FLANAGAN FOUNDATION

Spring 2012
Issue 3

John Patrick Flanagan Foundation www.jpff.org amanda.flanagan@icrinc.com P.O. Box 818, Southport, CT 06890

THANK YOU FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the John Patrick Flanagan Foundation (JPPF), a heartfelt thanks to our many contributors, sponsors and supporters for making 2011 another very successful year.

Throughout 2011, JPPF was busy on a number of fronts – organizing fundraising events, collaborating with our community partners and positioning our organization for long-term sustainability.

On April 6, 2011, we were proud to celebrate the dedication of the John Flanagan Memorial Children's Corner in the Norma F. Pfriem Cancer Institute at Bridgeport Hospital. As you may recall, JPPF provided support to the hospital to create the children's waiting room. Also, we were pleased to provide a number of amenities, including child-sized furniture, interactive games, books and toys suitable for kids of all ages. The Bridgeport Hospital administration graciously dedicated this special space in John's honor.



*John Flanagan Memorial Children's Corner at Bridgeport Hospital
(David Emberling Photography)*

In June 2011, Team Flanagan was once again well-represented at the Fairfield Half Marathon and 5K Road Race weekend, with more than 100 runners helping us raise more than \$60,000. This outpouring of support and friendship has been inspirational – and one of the highlights of the summer for so many of us. We hope to have a bigger presence at this year's race. Please visit www.firstgiving.com/jpff for information about running with us in the 5K on June 23 or the Half Marathon on June 24, or to make a donation to sponsor a runner. Please contact Team Captain Tim Bishop at tab@bjklaw.us if you have any questions.

To close out 2011, we were pleased to make grants to a number of wonderful Connecticut-based charities in December. Grants for 2011 include the following:

- **The Connecticut Audubon Society:** The John Patrick Flanagan Trailblazers program rolled into its third year in 2011; making field trips possible for more than 1,000 Bridgeport public school children thus far. The Trailblazers program was developed to give area students in grades two through six an opportunity to explore native Connecticut habitats and see live animals as part of their science curriculum.
- **Wakeman Boys & Girls Club, Smilow-Burroughs Clubhouse, Bridgeport, CT:** For the 2011-2012 school year, our grant helped sponsor two full-time staff members to run afterschool programs for neighborhood children. Read our profile of these two impressive young women on page 2.
- **Lawyers for Children America:** Our grant funds the training of new attorneys in Fairfield County to represent abused and neglected children in the Connecticut legal system.
- **High School Scholarship Foundation of Fairfield:** The John Patrick Flanagan Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to a student with demonstrated financial need graduating from Fairfield Warde High School in June 2012.
- **Bridgeport Hospital Foundation:** Our 2011 grant was used to purchase additional toys and maintain supplies of the John Flanagan Memorial Children's Corner at the Norma F. Pfriem Cancer Center at Bridgeport Hospital.

The positive financial forecast presented at our Annual Meeting was yet another significant accomplishment for JPPF. Given our fundraising success and continued sound financial management, our organization is positioned for long-term sustainability. I take great comfort in knowing that the work of JPPF has the potential to continue for years to come. As John's children grow, they will have the opportunity to become more actively engaged in the work of our organization. To provide the children he loved so much with the opportunity to help those in need in John's name, is the greatest tribute imaginable.

Again, on behalf of our board members, thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Amanda Flanagan, Chairperson

JPFF Grant Recipient Profile: Wakeman Boys & Girls Club

In 2011, JPFF made a grant to the Wakeman Boys & Girls Club's newly opened Smilow-Burroughs Clubhouse in the west end of Bridgeport, CT. Our grant helped to fund two staff positions at the new Clubhouse for a year through the Jesuit Volunteer Corps. Both Laura Jenkins (LJ) and Mary Jacob are recent college graduates from the West Coast who are pursuing careers in Education.

LJ and Mary began working at Wakeman in August, just in time to prepare for the new clubhouse's first afterschool program, which provides the nearly 250 enrolled kids homework help, computer classes, arts and crafts, sports, dance, and more – while keeping a focus on community service and academic success.

LJ, from Northern Idaho and a recent graduate of Portland College, runs the teen program which includes a peer group, homework and tutoring help, and a fun and safe lounge for teens to spend time after school. LJ is very excited about the Diplomas to Degrees program she runs, a program being piloted at the Smilow-Burroughs Clubhouse and six other Clubs nationwide. "Wakeman makes college prep and advisory services accessible to our teens free of charge," she said. "Lots of kids are first-generation college students, and we are trying to teach them about the college application process. Financial aid and paperwork can be overwhelming and difficult to navigate, and this program has really helped parents understand those areas better."

LJ was particularly happy to help when a high school student who was attending a local technical school realized it wasn't the best place for her to study if she wanted to go to college. Wakeman helped her transfer to a local private school where she is making high honors thanks, in part, to her hard work at the Clubhouse each afternoon.



Mary Jacob and Lauren Jenkins

Mary Jacob, from California's Bay area and a recent graduate of UCLA, is assisting in the delivery of elementary and middle school programs. She especially enjoys Chick Chat, a program for middle school girls that provides support, guidance and help with developing goals. She also helps lead the Girls Night Out program, which meets monthly and is designed to strengthen the bonds between girls and their older role models.

Mary was surprised by the willingness of the young girls to open up and confide in her. "The fact that the girls respected and trusted me enough to be willing to share with me was a real surprise," she said. "It's a big compliment to fit into the puzzle of people in their lives."

Both LJ and Mary talk about what a gratifying experience this year has been. "You don't know what impact you're going to have on these kids' futures," said LJ. "We won't be here to know for sure what kind of effect or influence we have had on these kids, but we are confident that we make a difference each day."

JPFF is honored to play a small role in helping the new Wakeman Clubhouse in its inaugural year. We are proud to help underwrite the work of these two impressive young women as they dedicate a year of service to helping local children. Thank you and best of luck to LJ and Mary! ♣

A "Heart-Felt" Thank You

A most sincere thank you to Fairfield, CT, artist Jill Morris O'Brien, who created the mixed-media piece "Heart-Felt" for display in the John Flanagan Memorial Children's Corner of the Norma F. Phriem Cancer Institute Family Lounge at Bridgeport Hospital. Fashioned from many of John's own sea shells, sea glass and other natural materials, this piece is a very special tribute to John.



Heart-Felt

Jill Morris O'Brien creates art infused with positive energy, combining traditional mediums of painting and drawing with collage and mosaic techniques. Included in many of her pieces are natural elements found in her native Connecticut woodland and seaside environments. By incorporating natural objects into her pieces, Jill hopes that the observer can see the beauty in even the simplest of found objects, and understand that what is precious is all around us. ♣

Thoughts of John...

"I choose to focus on what I have, not what I have lost."

I still get chills when I think of those words shared by Fr. John Baran at John's memorial service. They came from a conversation he had with John in the hospital in the latter stages of his incredibly brave battle. So easy to say. So hard to live. They are humbling and inspiring. But as I have reflected on John's life so many times over the past three-plus years, I've come to realize that those words did not come from the belated epiphany of someone who had just developed a new perspective on life. They represented how John lived his life all along. John and I were acquaintances when I was in high school, separated by the then "chasm" of four years. But then became friends after college, as our paths crossed frequently on the campaign trail (when he would seek the warmth of the luxurious Chris Shays campaign RV, despite having a pack of Blumenthal for AG pamphlets in his pocket) and at the Horseshoe or whatever Fairfield or Hartford-area watering hole was on the list that weekend. That was during our late 20s and early 30s.

In 2002, our relationship entered a very new chapter when I accepted (at the Horseshoe, of course) his offer to become business partners. We had discussed the idea for several months, but as much as John wanted to convince me to join, he never really put the pressure on. He knew I had to come to the decision myself; he just kept helping me weigh the pros and cons, rationally addressing every potential concern until there were none left and the decision was obvious. That was my first real taste of how John approached everything. In the first couple of years we likely spent more time with each other than we did with our wives and kid(s). We became much closer friends, while our relationship also added the elements that go with being in business together.

I knew going in that John was incredibly smart and talented. It was a main reason I decided to partner with him... I was pretty certain he knew what he was doing, so even if I didn't, I was pretty sure we'd be ok. I also knew he was very competitive and driven to succeed. But it became clear to me over time that one of John's greatest skills – and one of his greatest gifts – was his ability to keep things in perspective... never getting overly emotional about anything and, ultimately, keeping a clear focus on the bigger picture and what really mattered most.

We sat next to each other for the better part of seven years and had thousands of scheduled or impromptu meetings as we figured out together how to build a successful business. They would all follow a fairly similar progression: I'd bust into John's office, fired up about something, whether it was a great new business opportunity or an unhappy client, and launch the issue in his general direction; John would absorb the initial rush of energy, slowly spin around in his chair, pull out one of those friggin yellow legal pads and then look up and calmly respond with a question or a statement that would immediately frame the opportunity or the challenge we faced. I'd exhale, sit down and then we'd kick it back and forth, with John always asking the questions that focused right in on what mattered; and in short order we'd have a decision and an action plan. I'd walk out of his office confident in our collective decision and realize in hindsight that John had not actually said all that much, but his contribution made all the difference.

John was an amazing counselor. People from throughout his life sought him out for that reason. He had an amazing ability to listen and process information and then help other people figure things out for themselves. He never pressed his own point of view, he would just guide the conversation until it came to a solution. You always felt better after a conversation with John.

John wanted to be successful, and he was by every measure, but he also knew what his priorities were and he had a unique ability to resist the temptation that confronts everyone so often – the pursuit of "more" or "what's next." Sometimes we can convince ourselves that by not trying for something more, we have somehow "lost" something we could have had. But we miss the fact that always going for more can involve compromises and trade-offs. John didn't compromise on the things that mattered most...his family, his friends, personal time to relax and enjoy life and, of course, his tequila.

John seemed to truly focus on – and appreciate and be content with – the things he *had*, and not all the additional things he *could have* had. In the process, I think he ended up with so much more. As much as I miss him as a friend, a partner and a counselor, I try to follow his lead and focus on the time we had and not the time we lost.

- Michael Fox

Here are a couple of my favorite photos. -Amanda



Rainy Morning, Spring 2004



Planting a Tree, Fall 2007



Wedding Day, October 1996

Thank you 2011 Contributors

The John Patrick Flanagan Foundation gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the following individuals, companies and organizations for their donations in 2011.

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JPFF Financial Report 2011

2011 Grants

In 2011, JPFF distributed the following grants:

\$7,000	Connecticut Audubon Society for the JPFF Trailblazers program
\$4,500	Wakeman Boys & Girls Club
\$2,500	Lawyers for Children America
\$1,000	John Patrick Flanagan Memorial Scholarship at HSSFF
\$ 300	Bridgeport Hospital Foundation
\$15,300	Total amount granted for 2011

Total amount granted since JPFF inception (2009-2011) = \$35,470

JPFF Endowment, Dec. 31, 2011 = \$259,572

2011 Fundraising Income = \$63,333

2011 Interest and Dividend Income = \$ 11,440

All 2011 operating costs were covered by our interest and dividend income.

2011 Operating Costs = \$7,458

Our operating costs included web site hosting fees, credit card processing fees, P.O. box fee, accounting fees, event planning and fundraising costs, printing, postage and other minor administrative costs. All other operating costs, including legal work, graphic design, website design, bookkeeping and all managerial and administrative costs were donated. **JPFF is an all-volunteer organization. ♣**

A SPECIAL THANKS



A special thank you to **ICR, LLC** for donating the infrastructure that enables JPFF to keep our operating costs so low.

Also, thank you to **Dif McGeough** for maintaining our website.



**Please come run with TEAM FLANAGAN 2012
as we honor John
in the Fairfield 5K Race June 23
& Fairfield Half Marathon June 24**

Last year, more than 100 runners joined our team to run the Half Marathon or 5K. Let's top that for 2012!

There are two easy steps to joining Team Flanagan 2012:

- 1) Go to www.firstgiving.com/jpff and sign up for our team.
- 2) Pick your race and register online at www.fairfieldhalf.org

Please email Team Captain Tim Bishop at tab@bjklaw.us with any questions.

To make a tax-deductible donation to JPFF, or to sponsor a runner, please visit www.firstgiving.com/jpff

OUR MISSION: The mission of the John Patrick Flanagan Foundation is to help vulnerable children and families by supporting charities that provide the direction, education, and healthy environment that vulnerable children and families need to have the opportunity to reach their full potential. We will give special consideration to supporting Connecticut children and families. Charities interested in applying for a JPFF grant, should visit jpff.org, and download our grant application.

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