

# KIDS COUNT!

## 18th Annual Testimonial Dinner & Coach Mike Deane Basketball Clinic

*Saturday, September 16, 2017 - 1:00 pm clinic - 6:00 pm dinner*

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Dear Friend,

*Kids Count!* invites you to join us in celebrating our 18th Annual Testimonial Dinner and Coach Mike Deane Basketball Clinic. Recently we announced with pride our 2017 Testimonial Celebration Honorees: **Andy Ethier, Meg Fronczek, Jack Weaver, and Prestige Vending**. The honorees and up to 300 guests will enjoy the lively humor of Master of Ceremonies, Coach Mike Deane, exciting live and silent auction packages, and a delicious dinner provided by the Elks. Earlier in the day, Coach Deane will once again lead his popular basketball clinic, a free event open to boys and girls of all skill levels.



I am also thrilled to share with you our sponsorship program for these events. With the generosity and leadership of our corporate sponsors, we look forward to new levels of success for our Testimonial Dinner and Basketball Clinic. I hope you will consider joining one of our corporate sponsorship clubs. You will see on the enclosed sponsorship menu that *KidsCount!* has many benefits to sponsorship in order to show our appreciation for supporters like you.

If you take a few moments to read the enclosed newsletter, you'll see that your donation will go a long way to supporting children in Watervliet. You should also know that *Kids Count!* is run entirely by volunteers, so every dollar raised through the Testimonial Dinner and Auction is invested directly into our community, not into administrative costs.

So, can we count on you to help? A sponsorship at any level will bolster our efforts to promote educational, cultural, and athletic opportunities for Watervliet Children. Thank you in advance for your support. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at any time.

Gratefully,

Frank Gilchrist, *Kids Count!* Chairman

Please make checks payable to *Kids Count!* c/o Frank Gilchrist, 614 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Watervliet, NY 12189 - 518.273.5653

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## 18th Annual Testimonial Dinner & Coach Mike Dean Basketball Clinic

Saturday, September 16, 2017 - 1:00 pm clinic - 6:00 pm dinner

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### Sponsorship Opportunities

We hope you will consider supporting these exciting events through a corporate sponsorship. There are many Watervliet kids counting on your generosity.

#### Coaches Club Sponsors - \$1,000

Complimentary Tickets for 8 Guests\* – Organization Logo to appear in event program and annual *Kids Count!* Newsletter – Option to include company marketing materials in event giveaways – Banner displayed prominently at event, if provided by the Organization.

#### Center Court Sponsors - \$500

Complimentary Tickets for 2 Guests\* – Organization Logo to appear in event program and annual *Kids Count!* Newsletter – Option to include company marketing materials in event giveaways.

#### Varsity Sponsors - \$250

Organization logo to appear in event program and listed in our annual *Kids Count!* Newsletter.

#### Boosters - \$100

Organization logo to appear in event program.

\* We just ask if your sponsorship selection includes complimentary tickets, that you complete and return the following information, with your check payable to Kids Count!, to Frank Gilchrist at 614 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Watervliet, NY 12189:

Organization Name \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Names of People Attending \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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*Kids Count!* is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

S U M M E R 2 0 1 7

# KIDS COUNT!

Annual Newsletter

Chairman Frank Gilchrist ❖ Vice Chairman Matt Ethier  
Treasurer Kerry Gilchrist ❖ Secretary Carleen Legault

## Social Media

*Kids Count!* has a Facebook page. To keep up with fundraising updates, event information, photos, and volunteer opportunities, find and “like” our page. New information is added regularly.

## Holiday Assistance

Over the years, *Kids Count!* has granted hundreds of holiday wishes for the children of Watervliet families in need. In December of 2016, *Kids Count!* also contributed to a citywide holiday drive led by Albany Fire Protection and the Watervliet Police Department. Friends across Watervliet generously filled collection boxes with hundreds of gifts.

## Athletics

Promoting physical fitness and active lifestyles is a priority for *Kids Count!* Throughout the 2016-2017 school year, we have awarded grants to youth sports, including school sponsored teams, clubs, and recreation leagues.

## Backpack Giveaway Benefits Watervliet Students

Backpacks, school supplies, and winter accessories helped kick off the holiday season for approximately 200 Watervliet kids and their families.

*Kids Count!* and the Watervliet Civic Center distributed backpacks filled with pencils, crayons, markers, notebooks, and other necessities during a community “Tree Lighting Ceremony” at Veterans Memorial Park in December. ‘Tis the season for giving, *Kids Count!* and the Watervliet Civic Center also distributed hats and gloves to the Watervliet kids. Volunteers from both organizations came together to make the event a huge success.

Events like these, which help ease the financial burden for families, are extremely important in Watervliet. *Kids Count!* Chairman Frank Gilchrist looks forward to growing the event in the future to benefit even more children.

## Halloween Parade

Together with the Watervliet Recreation Department, *Kids Count!* was one of the many proud sponsors to help continue a cherished Watervliet tradition - the Watervliet Halloween Parade! On Sunday, October 30, 2016, the parade assembled at the Pershing Green Park and ended at Reds Field. Children and adults of all ages enjoyed music, pony rides, “Tots the Clown,” food, a bounce house and the children received treat bags to take “trick or treating.”

## *KIDS COUNT!* Golf Tournament

On Sunday, May 7, 2017, over 100 golfers helped *Kids Count!* raise nearly \$10,000 for our Scholarship Fund. Chaired by Jay Halayko, with Co-Chairs Maria Geene and Jim Hayes, the golf tournament was the most successful to date. Golf on a rainy day at the Fairways of Halfmoon was followed by a picnic lunch at Hudson Shores Park in Watervliet. Thank you to all of our sponsors, volunteers and golfers for a memorial day of golfing for a great cause! We promise you sun and warmer weather one of these years!!

## \$85,000 in College Scholarships Award

Over the past 17 years, *Kids Count!* has awarded more than \$85,000 to college bound graduating seniors. The 2017 awardees are:

- ❖ Evan Tambolloe, Watervliet High School, to attend RPI; Received the Bob and Libby Diamond Scholarship
- ❖ Usva Asif, Watervliet High School, to attend RPI; Received the Robert A. Fahr Scholarship
- ❖ Joshua Lindsay, Watervliet High School, to attend the University at Albany
- ❖ Brianna Moran, Watervliet High School, to attend HVCC
- ❖ Nathaniel Spain, Watervliet High School, to attend Siena College

The scholarship recipients were selected based on their eligibility (Watervliet resident, college bound high school senior) and an essay describing "Why I am proud to have grown up in Watervliet." The Scholarship Committee was impressed by all of the heartfelt and well-written submissions by this year's applicants.

## 2017 Honorees Announced

On Saturday, September 16, 2017, Coach Mike Deane returns for the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Testimonial Dinner & Free Basketball Clinic

Andy Ethier, Meg Fronczek, Jack Weaver and Prestige Vending will be honored for the significant impacts they have made upon the youth in our community. These individuals, as well as the individuals at Prestige Vending, will be honored at the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Testimonial Dinner, an event that regularly draws between 200-300 guests each year. Now a highly anticipated Watervliet tradition, the Testimonial Dinner is the annual accumulation of various fundraising events organized by *Kids Count!* in order to support youth programs in the City. Guests enjoy the lively humor of Master of Ceremonies, Coach Mike Deane, as well as exciting love and silent auction packages, and, of course, the warm hospitality and after-dinner entertainment provided by the Elks.

In addition to serving as MC, Coach Deane will once again lead a free basketball clinic on September 16<sup>th</sup> at the Dome. Thanks to Coach Deane's generosity, the skills clinic is a free event open to boys and girls of all skill levels. The clinic is appropriate for children aged 5-13.

Sponsorship packages, auction opportunities, and event tickets are now available. Please visit the *Kids Count!* Facebook Page for more information or contact Frank Gilchrist at 518.273.5653.

We would like to thank the following individuals and Organizations for generously donating through our 2016 Sponsorship program:

Pioneer Savings Bank – Parker Brothers Memorial Funeral Home – Watervliet Housing Authority – Giuseppe's Pizzeria – The Barbershop at Axis Salon – The Foglia Family – The Geene Family – The Hayes Family – The Gilchrist Family – The Halayko Family – Matt Ethier and Amy Jordan – The Diamond Family – Watervliet Youth Soccer – Schuyler Bakery – Albany Fire Protection – Exit 9 Wine and Liquor Warehouse – Sherriff Craig Apple – Watervliet Elks Lodge #1500 – Watervliet City Democratic Committee – AFSCO Fence & Deck – Bob's Diner – Kirchhoff Consigli – Greenwood Contracting, Inc. – First Friday Poker Club – Watervliet Little League – Watervliet Uniformed Firefighters Assoc Local #590 – Cocca's Appliances – Watervliet Wrestling – Schanz Beverage – Comfortex Window Fashions – Patrick's Pub – DeCrescente – Neil D. Breslin – Bill Sheehy Lawn Mowing & Yardwork – John T. McDonald III – Gramercy Communications – Hoffman Car Wash – Ambiance Salon – Schuyler Auto Body – Metabolic Meltdown – The Moore Insurance Agency, Inc. – Lamb & Lamb Attorney – Ancient Order of Hibernians – Gus's Hot Dogs – Mayor Michael Manning, Councilwoman Ellen Fogarty and Councilman Nick Foglia – Albany Academy of Dance – The Black Bear Inn – Tri-City Valley Cats