



Fall 2008 Informational Update

Sanofi-Aventis Employees Offered 2 Days of Caring

On September 30th and October 1st, Middle Earth's Bridgewater Community Youth Center received an extreme make-over from more than 30 Sanofi-Aventis employees. Their main focus was the living room and family room at 520 North Bridge Street. The volunteers washed, spackled, prepared and painted the ceilings and walls. They also installed new trim and window treatments. The volunteers ripped up the flooring in those two rooms and replaced it with new industrial strength carpet tiles. Sanofi-Aventis also donated enough carpeting to redo three remaining offices, the living room and hallways.

Sanofi-Aventis employees improved the exterior of the youth center, too. Volunteers painted parking lines in the parking lot, washed the exterior of the building and repaired broken vinyl. The large trees at the front of the building were trimmed and the exterior doors were painted. Several of the workers also weeded a flower and shrub bed and prepared an environmental space for a future butterfly garden.



The facelift not only provides a safe, comfortable environment for the youth to enjoy themselves, but it also sends them a message that they are worthy of kindness and that volunteerism brings great joy to others.

Thank you so much, Sanofi-Aventis!

Reasons We Are Thankful in 2008

To Somerville Recreation Department who waived a fee so that our kids could participate in a Recreational Basketball League held at Votech. The kids absolutely loved this!

To all staff, collaborators, and youth who helped to make our first year of our 21st Century program a great success.

To the volunteers (see Sanofi-Aventis and Eagle Scout articles in this newsletter) who improved our facilities.

To all youth, staff and volunteers who helped make the Somerset County 4-H Fair hamburger booth another success.

To our Board of Trustees, who are helping us to develop our marketing plan and new marketing initiatives, a new strategic planning process, and investigating an accreditation process.

To all of the youth, staff and volunteers who helped out with our annual Tour of Somerville Cycling Series over Memorial Day Weekend.

To Joan Gleason, our Corrigan Award recipient, for her dedication and hard work to the community.

To our funders for their continued support over the years!

To our staff for their dedication and loyalty to our youth!

To all of our youth who have worked hard and graduated from our programs!

To all of the kids who really want our services.

To all of the youth who come back and visit us, letting us know that they are doing well.





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Local Boy Scout Improves Youth Center for Eagle Badge

Kalan Cleary could be characterized as a normal teenager, but he has done some extraordinary things. Having fulfilled all of the Boy Scout requirements of leadership, service, and outdoor skills, Kalen only needed to perform a final, big project to become an Eagle Scout, an achievement that only 5% of Boy Scouts attain. Kalan revamped our Bound Brook Community Youth Center by repairing and painting walls; hanging a new cabinet, fixing the broken doors on the existing cabinets; resecuring the stair hand rails, cleaning all the windows and repairing window framing; and scrubbing the bathroom and kitchen. His project vision was so large that he garnered help from other local boy scouts.

“I couldn't have completed the project without the help of others,” said Kalan. “I chose this project because I went to the Bound Brook Center when I was younger. I got a great feeling of accomplishment from the project and really enjoyed seeing the kids excited with a nicer place to spend their time.”

“My Eagle Scout can finally soar! He has earned his wings and I am very proud of him.” said, Ellen Cleary, Kalan's mom. Kalan received his Eagle Scout Award at the Court of Honor on Sunday, October 26th.

Peter Mayer Holiday Concert

On Friday, December 5, The Peter Mayer Group will perform a holiday concert at the United Reformed Church in Somerville. The concert will begin at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$25 and benefit local charities. You can obtain more information, learn about the beneficiaries, find out what restaurants are offering concert specials and listen to the band's music at: www.middleearthonline.org/starsandpromises/.

2009 Board

We are seeking board members for 2009. No experience necessary, just a willingness to help others. Please call 908-725-7223 or e-mail MddlEarth@aol.com to learn more.



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