



RISING STARS

RISING STARS CONNECTION

A Publication of the Rising Stars Youth Foundation, Inc.

FEBRUARY 2014 EDITION

As Rising Stars enters 2014, its commitment to improve and expand our programming to promote education is stronger than ever. In this edition of CONNECTION, we will highlight some of the exciting news about our programs, student accomplishments, and upcoming events. We continue to say "Thank You" for your support and involvement in a foundation designed to make a difference in the lives of the youth in our communities! Please visit our website at www.risingstarsinc.org for more information on the Rising Stars program.

SAVE THE DATE: MAY 21, 2014 RISING STARS 11TH ANNUAL RISING STARS GALA

THEME: REACHING YOUTH...RISING TOGETHER

Our 11th Annual Rising Stars Foundation Gala will be held on Wednesday, May 21, 2014 at The New York Athletic Club. Our selection committee along with our 2013 awardees: Man of the Year, **Tom Quinlan**, CEO of RR Donnelley & Sons, Humanitarian of the Year, **Heather Robinson**, President of the Robinson (Clifford and Heather Robinson) Family Foundation, and Student Advocate of the Year **Jay Bilas**, Attorney and ESPN Analyst are in the process of choosing our 2014 honorees. If you attended our 10th Annual Rising Stars Youth Foundation Gala at the New York Athletic Club on May 14, 2013, we don't need to tell you what a great success the dinner was. This year's program will include a cocktail hour, silent and live auction presided by our friend and auctioneer **Pat Tully**, formal dinner, and award presentations to our 2014 honorees. So please SAVE THE DATE and go to our website at www.risingstarsinc.org to purchase your table today!

OUR GROWING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rising Stars is pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs. Stephanie Deutsch, Mrs. Paula Maturo, Mr. Michael Plunkett, and Mr. Jim Walsh to our Board of Directors. Mrs. Deutsch has been a Rising Stars supporter over the years and brings a wealth of experience in fundraising. Mrs. Maturo has been a key member of our Annual Golf Outing Committee and an integral part of our Rising Stars Girls Program. Both Mr. Plunkett and Mr. Walsh believe deeply in the connection between education and athletics. They willingly serve to insure that Rising Stars stays at the top of its game in promoting an educational basketball experience for our participants.

We are honored that such qualified and enthusiastic individuals have stepped to the plate to become more actively involved in promoting the growth and development of our Foundation. The Rising Stars family welcomes our new Board members and extends best wishes for a successful and fulfilling 2014.

RISING STARS SCHOLAR ATHLETES – FALL 2013

Academic support, instilling the importance of excelling in the classroom and on the court, continues to be our primary responsibilities in the mentorship of the youth who participate in the Rising Stars Youth Foundation. We are proud of all of our Rising Stars, particularly those who excel in the classroom. Furthermore, we would like to highlight our student athletes who in addition to receiving averages of 90% or above, also had exceptional attendance and were stars on the court!

**Ryan Pase
Gabe Westreich
Reed Rosen
David Didenko
Jon Hahami
Ryan Rabinowitz**

**Connor Sweeney
Ryan Gaynor
Drew Breslow
Eluah Perry
Robbie Benatar
Ryan Simon**

**Teddy Mangiarotti
Luke Jacklin
Jacob Katz
Daniel Segal
Jacob Buchbinder**

**Dior Ostrozumbi
Cole Jacklin
Jordan Bernstein
Jeremy Kim
Adam Covey**

RISING STARS PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL FUND RECIPIENTS EXPERIENCE SUCCESS

In the spring of 2013, Rising Stars committed \$45,000 for students attending a private school or accredited college preparatory educational institution for grades 9-12. We introduced our first class of seven students who were recipients of the Rising Stars Private Education Fund and were named Ted Virtue Scholars – after our 2012 Man of the Year and CEO of MidOcean Partners Ted Virtue. We are pleased to announce that all of our scholarship recipients are in good standing academically. Congratulations to the following Scholars who made the honor roll for the first semester surpassing the requirement of maintaining a GPA of 3.0, as well as a record of consistently excellent attendance and deportment.

<u>Scholarship Recipient</u>	<u>High School Attending</u>
Jayden Sutton	St. Francis Prep
Keanu Brewster	St. John the Baptist
Thomas O'Connell	Chaminade
Gerald Buncum	Holy Cross

OUR RISING STARS NYC TEAM

The Rising Stars and Long Island City YMCA partnership is experiencing great success as we continue to work together as one unit to provide an outlet for at risk children in Queens. The initiative extends a grass roots program formed by Rising Stars Executive Director, Dan Gimpel and Parent Liaisons, Willis and Alsina Perry. Through our combined efforts, our 7th grade boys team is not only playing basketball at a highly competitive level, but are making great strides in improving their individual academic performance by participating in scheduled Literacy and Math classes. Certified educators, Mr. Patrick Fowler and Ms. Gabrielle Rivera, are teachers working with our Rising Stars NYC athletes. Congratulations to the Rising Stars NYC 7th Grade Team, our classroom instructors, YMCA Partners, Parent Group, and Coach Omar for continued academic excellence. The STARS working diligently both on and off the court are: **Elijah Perry, Ryan Atkinson, Hassan Diara, Brandyn Giles, Kimani Merchant, Corey Patterson, Tyler St. Furcy, Aaron Davis, Tyshawn High, Jimani Fowler, Brian Kenyon, Ishaiah Williams, and Jared Simpson.** Mr. Paul Savramis, Founder of Rising Stars, is the contact person if anyone wants to meet the group or has questions. He can be reached at risingstars55@optonline.net

OUR COACHING STAFF MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Our Coaches are the spoke in our wheel as we work with youth both on and off the court. The coach is responsible for a plethora of skill development both on and off the court. However, most important is the coach's responsibility in assisting each of their players in growing into contributing members of our society. We would like to give a big shout out to our Rising Stars coaches: **Derek Klein and Matt Colocino (undefeated)-3rd grade, Chris Nyberg-4th grade, Brian Dunphy-5th & 6th grade, Dan Gimpel-6th grade, Brandon Wilson- 6th grade, Nikko Callender-7th & 8th grade, John Cantwell-8th grade, Jesse Winter and Harsion Hefele-8th grade.**

FROM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO COLLEGE WITH RISING STARS

Chris McCullough and Paul Burke, who have been in the Rising Stars Program since 4th grade, will be continuing their basketball careers at The University of Scranton and SUNY Cortland respectively in the fall of 2014. Both young men exemplify the Rising Stars philosophy. Paul's father, **Tom Burke**, recently told our **Executive Director, Mr. Dan Gimpel**, "This opportunity would not have been possible without the Rising Stars. It's a dream come true, and we could not be more proud to be a part of such an outstanding program." Chris and Paul's hard work both on and off the court proves that dedication truly pays off!

OUR LADY RISING STARS

Keep your eye out for **Our Lady Rising Stars** return to the court in March 2014 under the direction of **Bethany LeSueur**. Contact bethany@risingstarsinc.org for tryout information today!

*As a friend and supporter of our organization, you will be receiving updates periodically, which we call **Rising Stars Connection**. **Rising Stars Connection** is our vehicle to help spread the word about our great works, and to keep you informed about key dates, upcoming events, and the successes the program enjoys*

throughout the course of the year. Of course, we also invite you to continue to follow us on our website at www.risingstarsinc.org.

