The best friend a kid can have
Dear PAL Supporters,

We are proud to once again share the exciting goings on at The Police Athletic League (PAL), a century-old organization which offers inspiration, safety, and opportunity for New York City youth. We do so through dynamic education, sports, and youth development activities while celebrating our uniquely effective role in bringing the police and neighborhood residents together in an environment of mutual understanding and respect. With a blend of public and private support, PAL is financially healthy, with a sound organizational structure and strong governance that will serve PAL, and the children of this City, well into the future.

The Board has been a watchful steward of the funds entrusted to us, and has been instrumental in maintaining a financially secure organization with a promising future. The Board has been diligent in working through its strategic plan, with active involvement of the Board and PAL’s senior staff. We have been diligent in continuing to fortify PAL’s long-term health and effectiveness, and have embarked on evaluating and recruiting diverse new Board members and supporters.

PAL continues to work beautifully and effectively employing our “Cops and Kids” programming in tandem with NYPD’s community policing model. In addition, dynamic new initiatives such as songwriting, filmmaking, and performing arts, have created new opportunities for City youth.

We maintain our devotion to the concept that PAL must be a beacon for young people throughout the City, providing opportunities for all youth to learn, grow, and thrive. We urge you to examine the great contributions PAL has made to the youth of this City. With your continued support, we remain a tremendous resource for the children of New York City.

Sincerely,

Hon. Robert M. Morgenthau
Chairman

David Arena
President
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Dear Supporters,

The year 2017 saw the Police Athletic League (PAL) reach exciting milestones which have allowed us to effectively serve the children of this City. I share with you a few memorable moments from the past year which are representative of the extraordinary work PAL’s staff does to inspire children.

Last fall I accompanied the then NYC Schools Chancellor, Carmen Fariña, when she visited one of our Early Education sites in Brooklyn. This PAL Center, in an economically-challenged neighborhood in Brownsville, Brooklyn, thoroughly impressed the Chancellor. She expressed her respect for PAL’s impressive teachers facilitating a literacy session, and was touched by our “Dad’s initiative,” which fosters opportunities for young fathers and their children to interact in the center.

Later in the year, I was thrilled to have a front-row seat at our Cops & Kids flag football program. The New York Jets hosted PAL children at their spectacular training facility, and Jets players assisted New York City Police Officers in coaching the children. PAL kids delighted in the competition, teamwork, and the support and mentoring by the officers and professional athletes. The experience was reflective of the nurturing programs PAL provides for children throughout the City.

Finally, one of this year’s highlights was the wonderful collaboration of PAL, New York City Police Officers, and Decoda, a music performance and education group. Together, PAL teens and police officers spent months with professional musicians on a songwriting project that culminated in a musical performance at Carnegie Hall! This program offered a rare experience for children and police officers to work closely together, and to display their talents at a legendary venue. This collaboration showcased the best of what PAL offers.

These events are a tiny sample of the daily enrichment PAL provides children in academics, athletics, and the arts. As we engage young people of all ages in an array of activities, we pave the way for better opportunities for success, and we provide the framework for safer, harmonious communities. We at PAL are grateful to our supporters for your role in making PAL, “The Best Friend a Kid Can Have.”

Sincerely,

Frederick J. Watts
Executive Director
Building Self-esteem, Empowering Today’s Youth, and Providing Opportunity for Success. Since 1914, PAL has been serving New York City’s youth with programs to help overcome obstacles, provide academic enrichment, and ensure a safe and supportive environment. Today, through strong partnerships with the New York City Police Department and New York City government, many of our kids have the opportunity for a future filled with success!

PAL Afterschool Programs – Attaining Success During High Risk Afterschool Hours

Six thousand elementary and middle school students participate in our afterschool programs free of charge! Children benefit from homework tutoring, science and math enrichment, arts learning, and physical education. Research demonstrates children who attend quality afterschool programs are more likely to achieve academic success and have better social skills than children without supervision. “My mom and dad loved PAL as much as I did. They knew we were safe and with neighborhood kids.” said Brian Mullen, NHL Player and PAL Alumnus.

Bridging the Achievement Gap – Achieving Literacy for the Entire Family

In 2017, participants of our Early Education Program and their families read a minimum of 15 books a year from their PAL center’s lending library. Rose, whose first language was not English, spent time reading with her child and credits her child’s PAL Literacy Program with motivating her to obtain her high school equivalency diploma and is now enrolled in college.
In-STEP Program – Empowering Teens for a Bright Future

PAL teens are empowered to achieve. Transitioning from high school to college can be difficult for kids in lower income neighborhoods. PAL’s In-STEP program (In School Training & Employment Program) gives high school students tools for a successful transition into college by empowering them with this college prep/workforce development program. In-STEP participants attend weekly leadership and life-skills workshops, maintaining a focus on graduation and college selection. Students are also taught work readiness skills through paid internships. Participants attend numerous college tours throughout the year, with many In-STEP graduates securing partial or full scholarships.

Summer Day Camps – Building Skills Needed to Succeed

Kids ages 5 – 13, attain self-confidence and social skills. Summer enrichment enhances academic success and positive development of young people, especially those living in areas plagued with high poverty and crime. PAL’s Summer Day Camps provide positive mentorship and supervision during high risk summer months. For up to seven weeks children engage in academic projects, creative arts, and fun physical fitness activities, including team athletic tournaments and sports instruction. Field trips and special events add excitement to summer days and introduce campers to youth from other communities and cultural resources. Participants in PAL’s Summer Day Camps benefit from increased physical activity and engagement in the arts, decreasing summer learning loss, and improved communication skills and self-esteem.

PAL PLAYSTREETS – 100 Years of Providing Safe Havens for Kids and Community

Each summer for over 100 years, PAL closes public areas on streets as well as parks and vacant lots in New York City neighborhoods suffering from high rates of crime. Youth are provided supervised opportunities, engaging in organized physical activities, academic enrichment, and creative learning. Our police officers work closely with the kids, becoming role models, mentors, and positive influences.

Melissa attended PAL PLAYSTREETS, feeling safe as NYPD officers worked closely with the neighborhood kids. As a result, she decided to make education a priority and is now a public-school Dean and a proud role model to her son and her students. “Thank you for being our pal, you saved my life - our lives.”
In communities overwhelmed with poverty, many children begin school without the foundation they need to succeed. PAL has been providing vital early childhood education to New York City families for more than 40 years. Integrating Head Start Programs, Daycare, and Universal Pre-Kindergarten programs, early childhood education provides a strong cognitive foundation prior to entering kindergarten and includes opportunities for children with disabilities.

Students are exposed to science and music with musical instruments included in each classroom. The children also plant their own gardens each spring. Every PAL preschool child is fully prepared for kindergarten and is equipped with recognition of the alphabet, letter sounds, as well as counting skills. Participants have shown increased school readiness, a surge in family literacy, and improved social skills.

The six Early Childhood Education Centers throughout Brooklyn and Queens currently serve more than 550 children, ages two through five. Often soothing voices can be heard coming from the classrooms, “Goodnight bears, goodnight chairs, goodnight kittens and goodnight mittens,” as a group of three and four aged children are read to at naptime.

Another strong component of our Early Childhood Education program is for parents to be closely engaged with their children’s development. Our parents volunteer in classes, attend monthly family workshops, and take part in literacy efforts such as Daddy Read to Me Day. “I love coming and sharing this experience with my son,” said Mr. Covington, who read to his son on Daddy Read to Me Day. “PAL is a lifesaver. It provides me access to affordable childcare that I wouldn’t be able to get otherwise.”

The best part of working with Pre-K kids is that our staff get to see dramatic transitions. Kids come in as toddlers, and then they graduate fully ready to attend a full school day.
PAL kids form lasting, meaningful relationships with police officers who are committed to making a big difference in the lives of our kids and our communities. "Our work is imperative, Officer Lamont Anderson said, "because kids mainly see a negative perspective when watching the news and other outlets. Working with children in the community humanizes the police in their eyes."

Police Volunteer at PAL Centers - For more than 100 years since PAL was founded, officers from local precincts continue to be a constant presence in our centers, playing games with kids and helping students with their homework after school. These interactions go a long way in building long-term relationships and trust.

PAL’s Cops & Kids Sports - Hundreds of police officers coach and play alongside PAL kids in sports leagues, such as basketball, baseball, flag football, volleyball, and much more, inspiring hope, change, and understanding. Playing side by side builds bonds, trust, and breaks down barriers between the kids and the police.

William dropped out of college after his first semester. He joined PAL’s Cops & Kids sports program and was a three-point champion at the PAL All-Star basketball game and voted MVP. Playing alongside police officers, William was inspired to become an officer and motivated to go back to college. To keep this positive momentum going, the PAL staff hired him as a sport’s specialist for PAL PLAYSTREETS. “Working with the same kids year round allows you to follow their progression, and helps them recover when they fail,” said Officer Gabriel Cruz.

PAL’s Junior Police Club – Hundreds of elementary school students throughout the city connect with the New York City Police Department and participate in engaging precinct visits, empowering crime prevention workshops, and fun community service projects. Police interaction, beginning with kids at a young age, is essential to creating lifelong relationships and understanding.

Police Commissioner for a Day – High school students participate in an essay contest concerning how they would solve an existing crime/community problem if they were the Police Commissioner. Contest winners get to spend a day at Police Headquarters with the Commissioner and other top officials. Students have the opportunity to research a problem they may currently be experiencing and express their solutions to local police officials. Barriers are broken and mutual understanding is formed. In 2017, 450 kids submitted essays.
By providing the opportunity for PAL Teen Center youth to interact with police officers, 93% say their outlook towards the law enforcement community has improved.

Research shows that adolescent leadership skills improves test scores and enrich students’ academic growth, self-esteem, and self-confidence.

PAL’s juvenile justice participants complete probation and exit the system at a much higher rate than the 57% citywide figure.

PAL helps close the job skills gap for low income and minority youth who at 26% have the highest rate of unemployment of all demographic sectors.

PAL continues to provide thousands of NYC youth organized sports experiences, including Cops and Kids leagues in basketball, softball, soccer, volleyball, and flag football.

Social-emotional learning refers to non-academic skills acquired through the learning process that can help bolster academic performance and improve behavior.

While the U.S. Department of Education finds 6 out of 10 kids unprepared for Kindergarten, all 2016 Universal Pre-K students in PAL’s Early Childhood programs were deemed ready for school.

The rate of acceptance into college for participants of PAL’s In-School Training and Employment Program (In-STEP) is more than 30% higher than the national rate.

For over 100 years, PAL PLAYSTREETS continue to provide thousands of kids from the toughest city neighborhoods a safe space for active play.

*Amounts in 000s*
2017 FINANCIALS

Revenue

- 76% Government Contracts - $22,170
- 19% Contributions - $5,637
- 2% Rental Income and Fees - $527
- 2% In-Kind Gifts - $636
- 1% Investments and Legacy Income - $307

Total Support - $29,277

Expenses

- 44% Center Operations - $12,538
- 29% Child Care - $8,200
- 12% Teen Programs - $3,367
- 5% Sports and Recreation - $1,291
- 90% Total Program Services - $25,396
- 5% Development - $1,539
- 5% Management and General - $1,328

Total Expense - $28,263
Net Surplus $1,014

Assets

- Cash and Cash Equivalents $2,015
- Investments and Legacy Income 7,065
- Contributions and Accounts Receivable 486
- Due from Government Agencies 4,242
- Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets 423
- Property, Plant and Equipment 12,649

Total Assets $26,880

Liabilities and Net Assets

- Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses $1,239
- Accrued Salaries and Benefits $1,188
- Advances from Government Agencies 4,397
- Deferred Revenue 6,412
- Other Payables 83

Total Liabilities $13,319

- Unrestricted Net Assets 11,690
- Temporarily Restricted Net Assets 1,536
- PermanentlyRestricted Net Assets 335

Total Net Assets $13,561

Total Net Assets and Liabilities $26,880

* Amounts in 000’s

The Police Athletic League, Inc.’s financial statements are audited on an annual basis by Marks Paneth LLP. The financial highlights for the year ended December 31, 2017 are derived from information contained in the audited financial statements. The complete audit is available upon request from the Director of Finance at 341/2 E 12th St, NY NY 10003.
Legal Profession Luncheon
March 23, 2017

Steven M. Cohen of MacAndrews & Forbes Incorporated and Robert B. Fiske, Jr., of Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP were presented with The Robert M. Morgenthau Award at PAL’s 19th Annual Legal Profession Luncheon. Held at The Pierre Hotel, event Chairs were Matthew L. Biben and Stephen E. Kaufman. The Legal Profession Luncheon raised over $740,000.

Superstar Dinner
September 27, 2017

David Boies, legendary attorney with Boies Schiller Flexner LLP, was honored at PAL’s 45th Annual Superstar Dinner at The Pierre Hotel. Maurice R. Greenberg Chaired, along with Co-Chairs Frank A. Bennack, Jr., and John A. Catsimatidis. Emceed by Tony Danza, The Superstar Dinner raised more than $1.12 million.

Tony Danza and the Stars of Tomorrow
June 20, 2017

PAL Board Member Tony Danza performed alongside members of PAL’s Teen Acting Program, a program Danza helped launch, at the Gerald W. Lynch Theatre. More than $150,000 was raised to support the growth of the Teen Acting Program.
Real Estate & Construction Luncheon | October 17, 2017

Scott H. Rechler of RXR Realty LLC was honored at PAL’s 12th Annual Real Estate & Construction Luncheon at The Plaza. Co-Chairs included Peter J. Davoren, William Elder, Peter J. Striano and Matthew Van Buren. The Luncheon raised almost $575,000.

Business Luncheons


Generosity 5K Run/Walk
November 12, 2017

More than 20 people, including many PAL staff members and supporters, participated in the third annual 5K run/walk to benefit PAL. The multi-charity event was held at Riverside Park and raised $22,000.

Women of the Year Luncheon | December 14, 2017

PAL’s 29th Annual Women of the Year Luncheon at The Pierre Hotel honored Lisa M. Friel of the NFL and Kathryn A. Lu from Mutual of America Life Insurance Company. Amelia Bernstein, Barbara Taylor Bradford OBE, and Margo Catsimatidis chaired the event, which raised over $333,000.
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