

**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**A Better Chance of Wilton, Inc.**  
**January 8, 2013**

**Present:**

Carta, Mark  
Clune, Mary Lynn  
Cott, Gary  
Crimmins, Laurie  
Davala, George  
Dempsey, Shelley  
Fields, Robin  
Galiano-Kratz, Lisa  
Herndon, Gayle  
Klein, John  
Leddy, Kirsten  
Lee, Jane  
Legan, Karen  
Logan, Mark  
Lyll, Linda  
McGroarty, Liz  
Richards, Sheri  
Schuster, Lynn  
Shames, Louise  
Vanderslice, Lynne (via phone)

**Absent:**

Bell, Betsy  
McGroarty, Mike  
Meinhold, Genia  
O'Brien, Larry  
Reedy, Adrienne  
Reedy, Steve  
Shoemaker, Keith  
Smith, David  
Sum, Eydie

President John Klein called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

**Minutes:** The first matter discussed was approval of the November Board Meeting minutes. George Cott made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Sheri Richards and the board members present unanimously approved the minutes.

**Financial Report:** Gayle Herndon mentioned that there was nothing out of the ordinary to report. The town-wide mailing collected \$67K in donations last year and as of January

7th \$61K has been collected this year. If anyone has reimbursement check needs please contact Gayle. The auditors have 90% of the records, which should be completed this weekend. John Klein and the Board acknowledged and thanked Gayle for his hard work.

**Capital Campaign:** George Davala reported that \$26K has been raised since our last Board Meeting (4 x \$5k donations and 6 x \$1K donations.) No one who has been approached has said no and he is encouraged that we will meet our goals.

Lynne Vanderslice asked to touch base with Gayle and George later to confirm the allocation of donations.

**Fundraising Plan for 2013:** Adrienne Reedy could not attend the meeting due to illness, thus nothing to report at this time.

**Academic Committee Report (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter):** Linda Lyall was very pleased to report that all scholars are doing well and on track to improve if and where needed. Zourry is doing phenomenally. Eric Fishman, his mentor, says Zourry is in a good place and testing is not necessary now and would do more harm than good at this point. The three new female scholars are also performing very well.

John Klein commended the great job done by the Selection Committee.

Hui has been accepted to Fairfield University, Fordham University, Northeastern and Villanova. Selena has been accepted at Florida Tech. Other college acceptances are pending for all of the seniors.

Shelly Dempsey reported that alumnae Amanda and Onessa are doing very well at college/university. The college coaches are doing a terrific job, matching scholars to their schools.

**Host Family Report:** Mark Logan announced that calendar adjustments have been posted on the ABC website after changes caused by to Hurricane Sandy. Monei's new hosts are Matt and Derrel Mason. The Legans and Davalas will host Hui while her host family, the Easons, take a hiatus. New host families will be needed for the 2/3 girls and 2 boys entering the program this fall. There will be a Host Family meeting at Trackside on January 23, 2013.

Lynne Vanderslice mentioned that Sarah and Scott Gioffre have offered to hold a cocktail party in the spring, to which 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents will be invited with the intent of introducing them to the ABC organization and opportunities to get involved. Sarah Gioffre has also volunteered to oversee the ABC Newsletter.

**College Coaches:** Shelly Dempsey reported that J.P.'s college coaches, the Masons, would love input/help with his interest in premed/engineering programs. Please contact her if you know of anyone who is familiar with this specialized application process.

**Summer Programs:** Lynne Schuster relayed the many prospective summer plans/interests of the scholars.

Sophie – Save the Children

Selena – talking about working in the International Immunizations Department at Norwalk Hospital.

Hui – Still looking

Lia – Photography at FIT

Monei and Adriana – Cinzia would like them to apply to the Eleanor Roosevelt program

Raphael & Sophie– sent a letter of interest to Camp Dudley (as counselors)

Rey – NOLS & EIL Spain next summer

J.R. – applying to MIT summer program and reapplying to Columbia

Zourry – Fresh Air Fund in Canada; very interested in airplanes

Shelly Dempsey mentioned that she would approach a friend who is a pilot about possibly mentoring Zourry.

The *Emma L. Bowen Foundation* internship was discussed. It was created in 1989 to prepare minority youth for careers in the media industry (3.0 GPA required.) Kristen Leddy's husband has connections.

**Scholar Selection:** Jane Lee reported that we are currently looking for 3 girls and 2 boys. Eleven readers will convene for a training meeting on January 22, 2013. Families must include finances with their child's application. We are looking for students living on the eastern seaboard / accessible by train, family income not to exceed \$60-80K with academic acumen. The process begins end of January/February.

**Program Updates:** John Klein elaborated on the following:

1. Town Mailer – already covered by Gayle Herndon earlier in the meeting
2. Godfrey House Land Lease Renewal – The \$1K+ per month lease expires in 2016. Mark Carta and Erv Shames are working on the lease renewal. A possible cost saving strategy is to approach the Wilton Library Association (owner of the land on which the house sits) again to see if they might be willing to sell us the land. We could get a mortgage for the land that would cost ABC considerably less per month. Erv is not holding up any promises, but John felt we have to give it a try.
3. Facebook Page – Eydie Sum and her son are 90% done creating a Facebook page for ABC of Wilton.
4. Program Brochure – Robin Fields has kindly volunteered to create a tri-fold, 6-page brochure telling our story. It should be ready within a month. (Gary Cott offered to donate the paper on which it will be printed)
5. Scholars –
  - a. Raphael has been inducted into the National Honors Society
  - b. O'Londi is Captain of the Varsity Basketball team
    - i. #1 in the FCIAC in rebounds and number #6 in CT

- c. J.R. is going to the Presidential Inauguration with his AP Government class
- d. J.P. is working at Wilton Meadows

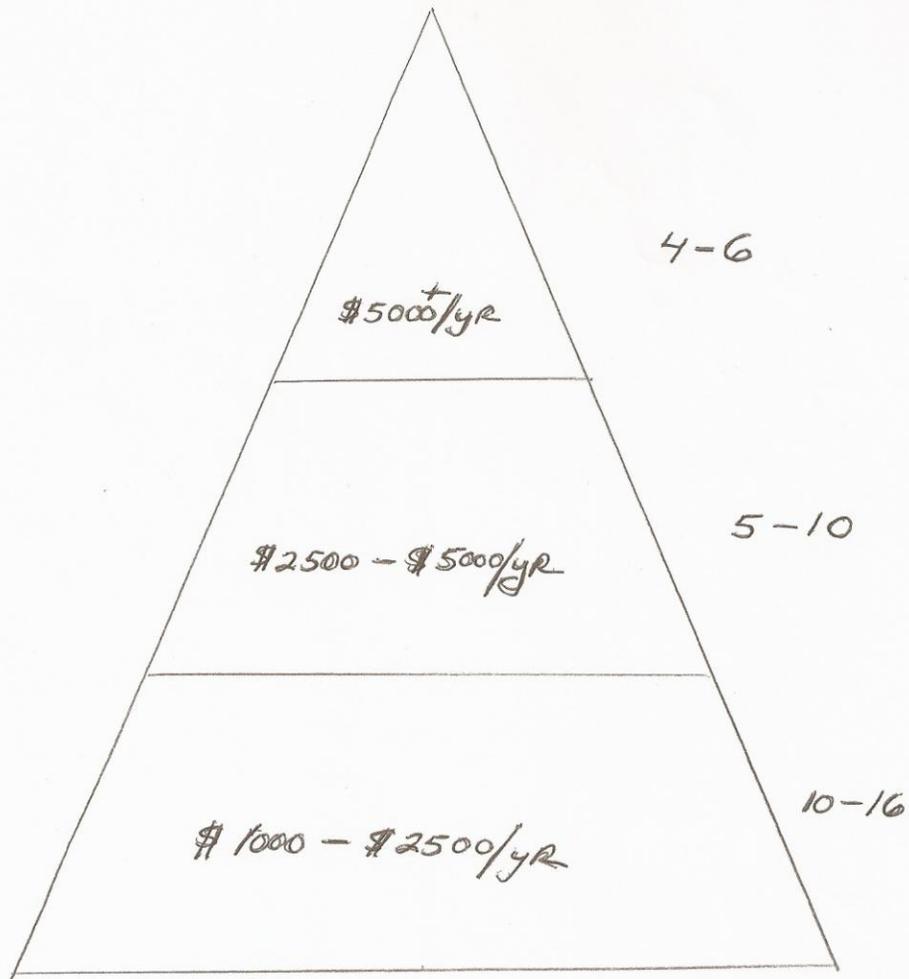
**New Business:** Shelly Dempsey relayed that the House Tour Committee met and two houses have been confirmed thus far. The tour will take place on Friday, May 31, 2013. Kara Williams and Georgia Davala are Co-Chairs of this fundraiser. They are looking for sponsors and additional houses for the tour. Please speak/email Shelly if you can offer any leads. The next Tour Committee meeting is scheduled for January 11<sup>th</sup>.

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

## Capital Funding Update

- Determined that there is an approximate \$58,000- &60,000 average shortfall over the next three years.
- Looking to offset the shortfall through a 3 tier approach:
  1. Bruce Legan is spearheading a Corporate Donor effort and has raised \$5,000
  2. Jane Lee has been actively researching/canvassing potential Foundation Donors
  3. Erv Shames and I have identified a list of potential individuals to be solicited by Board members for a 3 year commitment of \$1,000-\$5,000. This commitment is for additional giving over and above what a donor would normally otherwise contribute annually.
- Happy to share the list with Board Members who wish to help solicit or make recommendations for potential donors
- Hope to raise approximately half (\$30,000) of the shortfall through Board members. Already have raised \$15,000 from Board Members
- Large Donors (Corporate, Foundation and Individual) typically make it prerequisite for 100% Board (financial) participation
- Large Donors will be afforded special benefits such as “free” attendance to ABC events, i.e. Annual Gala, Golf Outing, Monte Carlo Night, House Tour *(include old donors as well)*
- The shortfall smoothes itself out over years 2 and 3 with an annual Fall Gala, the Monte Carlo Night and the introduction of a Wilton House Tour
- Individual solicitations are scheduled to be completed by year end.

# CAPITAL Funding Pyramid



TOTAL \$ 58,000 - \$60,000