



Since 1916

# Bonnie Brae

# TODAY

Small Victories. Every Day.

Fall 2010

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## CANADA 2010



The trip to Canada was filled with lots of outdoor fun, but it also gives our boys the opportunity to express themselves through art, writing

and photography. Students were invited to enter an original poem about fishing, with the winner earning a trip to purchase fishing supplies for the trip. One of the winning entries this year was a jingle:

*I want to fish.  
I'll catch it, cook it.  
Eat it and put it on a plate,  
won't be late.  
We're gonna have fish  
on a dish tonight.*

*by John*

Also, thank you to all our special donors who make this trip happen every summer for our students... it is the highlight of their summer!



## H'OLYMPICS

The H'Olympics is a week-long competitive sporting event, created for kids living in residential communities. This was the first year Bonnie Brae participated in the games, and it proved to be a great success. We had 25 students competing in track & field, softball and swimming, and our Bonnie Brae students walked away with a slew of metals! The games, held at Ramapo College, provided our boys with the opportunity to meet other residential students from across the country and enjoy a friendly, but competitive week of sports.

## BOXER GERRY COONEY VISITS BONNIE BRAE

Boxing great Gerry Cooney visited our students on the Bonnie Brae campus this summer. He spoke about some of the struggles in his life and encouraged the boys to work hard to overcome the many obstacles before them. Pictured here are Gerry showing CJ some boxing pointers.



# NEWS FROM THE BRAE

## FROM THE C.E.O.



### Day 1

When I arrive on campus at precisely five o'clock in the morning everyone is already moving. Lights are on. Bags are packed. Vans are being loaded. I hand out note books and sketch pads to my chosen Canadian reporters and artists. By seven o'clock we are all on the road. Must be close to a record for early departure. Crossing the border is relatively painless. A few of our vans are stopped, staff briefly questioned, then we are sent on our way. As usual we all rendezvous at the nearest currency exchange inside of the border. Everyone is all smiles. Everything is going very smoothly.

### Day 2

Day two begins on a more promising note: blue sky, no clouds, temps in the high seventies, and no humidity. We manage to visit five of our eight sites during the day. Not an easy feat as the sites are scattered in a fifty mile radius along some very back woods country roads. We usually can find our guys by the laughter. More guys than usual this year are found swimming in the lakes. Our learn-to-swim program has been a great success. Inevitably there is a "king of the float" contest that leads to much pushing, peals of laughter, and humorous trash talk.

### Day 3

Greg, the same Greg who counted windshield bug hits for me on our West Virginia trip, wants the doctor to fix his many mosquito bites. It is now two o'clock in the morning. Greg, together with three other residents and three staff members, is patiently waiting, well some of us are patiently waiting, for the emergency room doctor to clear him. Earlier that evening our van was involved in a minor fender bender just outside of Ottawa. Our policy mandates that all residents and staff members be medically cleared after such an accident. So we are waiting. One by one the other boys come over to me and ask if the doctor can help with their typical tourist complaints: bug bites, sun burn, and indigestion. I explain to each that we are only there to be certain that they were not injured in the earlier accident. No one-stop medical shopping center here. The accident occurred just before dinner so each boy has a bag of potato chips and pop. I am just about to deliver my usual lecture on healthy eating when our nursing supervisor reminds me that I stopped to get doughnuts for them on our way to the emergency room. Skip the lecture. They are soon cleared and on their way back to their site.

Find *Days 4 and 5* at [www.bonnie-brae.org](http://www.bonnie-brae.org)

*Bill Powers*

William M. Powers, MHA, MPA



## Mission Statement

*A haven where young men  
reclaim their potential through  
education and therapy.*

## CHANGE by David

When I think of change,  
it often frightens me.  
I dislike it oh so very much.  
It's confusing and frustrating,  
and sometimes it happens  
when you don't want it to.  
However, when you experience change,  
it could destroy you if you let it,  
or it could build you into  
someone strong and wise.  
Yeah, when I think of change,  
it frightens me,  
but I'm prepared.

## LOTS OF SPORTS GOING ON

Our students are playing sports both on and off campus. The ever-popular flag football is played on Tuesdays on the campus football field, while varsity volleyball is scheduled for Thursdays in the gym. Many students will again participate in Hoop Heaven, an off-campus basketball league: nine students are playing Varsity and 11 students are on the Junior Varsity team. For the first time, we also have students participating in an off-campus swim team. Bonnie Brae is also proud to announce that we're partnering with the Ridge Youth Football League, with one of our students, Cafee competing on the Jr. Skylands Football Team. Good luck to all athletes for a safe and fun season!

## FRIDAY BBQs

The summer months at Bonnie Brae are filled with recreation, day trips, group work, and some of the best BBQ around!

Our very own Kim Coates, along with the kitchen and maintenance crew, put together a festive gathering every Friday during the summer. It provides the boys

and the entire therapeutic community time to socialize, enjoy the warm weather and delicious barbecued food. The BBQ's also create a sense of community.

If you would like to enjoy a Friday BBQ with the boys, contact Nancy Hoffmann at (908) 647-8803.



# BONNIE BRAE SUMMER

## 2010 GRADUATION



Bonnie Brae matriculated seven high school seniors in June. The day was filled with family, friends, music, and a fabulous BBQ! Congratulations to all of our graduates! Special thanks to all the Bonnie Brae teachers who worked closely with the students in helping them reach this milestone.

## 2010 SCOTTISH GAMES



It was all kilts and smiles at the Annual Scottish Festival held on the Bonnie Brae campus on June 5. The large crowd enjoyed Scottish bands, athletic competitions and Scottish-themed vendors.

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

*Chris Vella, Substance Abuse Counselor*



Chris Vella has worked at Bonnie Brae for the past ten years. Chris enjoys his work here on campus for many reasons, one being that it is "never the same day," and new students present new challenges. He also notes that his job can be very intense,

but also very rewarding. Chris likes the fact that the staff at Bonnie Brae connect with the students on a very personal level, and work well together to help the students to reach their potential. A final thought from Chris about his work here at Bonnie Brae: "It's not just a job, it's about being genuinely concerned about the kids, and how to help them." Thanks to Chris for all his hard work at the Brae.

## 2010 POLO CLASSIC



*Pictured from left at Juntillas' Western theme tent are Don and Maureen Weir, Board President Rich Juntilla, and daughter Brooke Juntilla.*

The 11th Annual Polo Classic was held at Fieldview Farm in Pittstown, NJ, and what a glorious day it was!

The Polo Match was enjoyed by all, as well as the running of the hounds, the many contests, fancifully decorated tents and perfect weather!



*Above Bonnie Brae staff Shannon and ambassadors Greg, Tama-Jee, and Ali get the scoop straight from the horse's mouth!*

## 2010 TARTAN GOLF CLASSIC

The 22nd annual Tartan Classic was held at the Plainfield Country Club on September 20, 2010. Friends of Bonnie Brae enjoyed perfect weather, great golfing and a wonderful evening filled with an auction, raffle, dinner - as well as an update about our Bonnie Brae boys from Bill Powers.

Thanks to the Tartan Ball Golf Committee, and co-chairs Nancy Larson and Dave Chippendale, it was a great day!



*Band Director Willie Williams and the Bonnie Brae Knights kick off the 22nd annual Tartan Classic.*



*Co-Chairs Dave Chippendale and Nancy Larson*



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**Bonnie  
Brae**

Since 1916

Small Victories. Every Day.

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

**February 5, 2011**

The Tartan Ball

**June 4, 2011**

Scottish Games

Bonnie Brae Campus, Liberty Corner, NJ

**June 11, 2011**

Polo Classic

Fieldview Farms, Pittstown, NJ



## Do we have your email address?

Want the latest Bonnie Brae news as it happens?

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Just send an email to

**Cathy Phillips** at [cphillips@bonnie-brae.org](mailto:cphillips@bonnie-brae.org)

or visit our website [www.bonnie-brae.org](http://www.bonnie-brae.org)

## Our Friends are Leaving a Legacy for Bonnie Brae

Some of the most beneficial gifts to Bonnie Brae have come from supporters who have provided for the boys in their estate planning.

It's easy to become one of these farsighted individuals: if you already have a will, you can add a gift to the boys through a simple codicil (amendment). Any asset for which you can designate a beneficiary (such as an IRA, life insurance, etc.) can be bequeathed whole or in part to Bonnie Brae.

Your gift can be specific – designated for a specific program or use - or it can be unrestricted dollars that will be used where the need is the greatest.



If you wish to make a legacy gift, please contact **Nancy Hoffmann**, Director of Development, at **908-647-8803** or by email [nhoffmann@bonnie-brae.org](mailto:nhoffmann@bonnie-brae.org).