



# BACtalk

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## Oh, What a Difference a Week Can Make

*Salvation Army Summer Camp Program Reaching Out to Disadvantaged Kids.*

Oh, what a difference a week can make in the life of a child whose summer options may include street corner hangouts, back-alley recreation, or the chaos and confusion of a disrupted home life. To find out, one need only ask the dozens of young at-risk clients of Villa Maria Continuum (Timonium) who, through an annual gift of kindness from The Sunshine Lady Foundation, receive a two-week summer refuge at The Salvation Army's Camp Puh'tok in Monkton, MD.

"Five years ago, we decided we had to do something to get these kids off the streets in the summer," explains Carol Scheer, Villa Maria's Director of Volunteer Services. "These kids come from broken and sometimes violent homes, and we were determined to find them a safe haven where they could get away and continue to grow and learn at the same time. The Sunshine Lady Foundation took



*Each summer, more than 200 disadvantaged children receive scholarships to attend Camp Puh'tok residential camping session.*

care of the expenses; Camp Puh'tok takes care of the kids."

A child camper for nine years, Scheer is fully aware of the benefits summer camping provides each child. "Overnight camp is a big step for these kids. It's an opportunity for kids with poor social skills to learn about teamwork, positive social interaction and conflict resolution; and at the same time it's a structured fun program that provides a multitude of new experiences and moments to cherish for a lifetime."

According to Camp Puh'tok committee member Ron Roth, who coordinates the annual foundation gift, "I was an inner-city youth coming from Highlandtown, MD, and going to camp gave me a great opportunity to meet new people, enjoy nature and learn leadership skills." Each year, Roth, a former military officer and retired financial services firm owner, shares these acquired skills by mentoring a young Villa Maria patient and ensuring

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*Daily activities for campers may include hiking, archery, swimming, arts & crafts and rope climbing.*

## Dear Friends,

In *Forbes Magazine*, Peter Drucker, business management expert, author and founder of the Peter F. Drucker Foundation declares The Salvation Army "by far the most effective organization in the U.S. No one even comes close to it in respect to clarity of mission, ability to innovate, measurable results, dedication and putting money to maximum use."



As I look back on the strides The Salvation Army of Greater Baltimore has made in the past year, I am humbled by the dedication of all those who unwaveringly give so generously of their time, money and resources in support of our efforts to lessen the burdens of those in need.

To the thousands of staff, volunteers, individual and corporate donors, simply saying thanks does not say enough. If we are "by far the most effective," it is because our supporters are by far the most generous and compassionate.

Therefore, as you read the stories of the lives we've changed in this final newsletter issue of the year, do so proudly and with the knowledge that, if not for your support, so many would have gone without.

As summer approaches, we ask that you continue to support our efforts by sending your gifts of monetary donations, volunteering at an Army program, and contacting our Planned Giving and Development Departments to find out how you can continue to touch lives in need today and in the future.

Thank you and may God continue to richly bless you and yours.

Major Jim Arrowood  
Baltimore Area Commander

# Local girl awarded state recognition

by **Mary Helen Sprecher**, reprinted with the permission of *The Baltimore Guide*

It's not that far between Southeast Baltimore and Annapolis. Not geographically, anyway. But as 17-year-old Linnette Hines knows, it's not just the miles in the journey, but what they symbolize.

Hines, who recently traveled to the state's capital in order to attend Maryland's Youth of the Year competition



*Hines was pleasantly surprised as she accepted her plaque and certificate.*

sponsored by the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club, has made several unexpected detours and sudden sharp turns in her life.

Five years ago, she moved in with her aunt Anissa Lane in order to achieve stability in her home life. Shortly after that, she endured a difficult first year at Baltimore Polytechnic High School before transferring to Patterson.

The twists and roadblocks, however, never deterred her. She found solace at the Highlandtown Boys and Girls Club, quickly becoming a junior staff member and a mentor to the younger children. She became involved in Central Baptist Church and began taking advanced courses at Patterson.

And last Wednesday, her return from Annapolis as the 2004 Youth of the Year for the state of Maryland was yet another step in her personal odyssey.



*A breakfast was held in Annapolis for Hines and the other nominees.*

The awards program, in its 57th year, recognizes a Boys and Girls Club member's outstanding contribution to family, school, community and the club. Hines was nominated by the Highlandtown chapter of the club.

"I was so surprised," she said as she relaxed last week back at the club's offices on Clinton Street. "We were in Annapolis, and they had this breakfast for us, and they gave all of us plaques. Then they said they were going to

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## Play Baseball The Ripken Way

*Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club Gets Ripken Baseball Grant*

This year, members of the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Clubs Summer Day Camp programs will not only be treated to a summer full of fun-filled activities; they will also have the memorable honor of being the first participants in a newly instituted baseball program made possible by the first annual Cal Ripken Sr. Community Baseball/Softball Grant.

Announced during a recent Book Tour for *Baseball The Ripken Way*, the Ripken Brothers, Billy and Cal Jr., saw this financial gift as "an opportunity to celebrate baseball and make a real impact in communities that we visit. With NikeGO's support and through the foundation we named after our dad, we will be able to make a true contribution and a real difference to the youth in each of these cities."

Along with a baseball mini-clinic conducted by the Ripken brothers at Oriole Park at Camden Yards, the \$12,000 grant will provide all necessary baseball equipment, quickball sets, and a part-time trainer to help instruct the coed members of The

Salvation Army's Highlandtown and Middle River Boys and Girls Clubs in the sport of baseball.

"We are extremely grateful to the Ripken Family and Foundation for their generosity," says Shadd Phillips, Salvation Army of Greater Baltimore Boys and Girls Clubs Executive Director. "This grant has afforded us the opportunity to introduce our members to another new experience, one that will go a long way in our efforts to encourage positive social interaction and team-building skills."

The Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit institution created in 2001 in memory of a man regarded by many as the pre-eminent baseball teacher of all time. Cal Ripken, Sr., who succumbed to lung cancer in 1999, spent 37 years as a player, coach, and manager in the Baltimore Orioles organization.

NikeGO, Nike's signature U.S. community affairs initiative and the company's long-



*Cal and Billy Ripken present a \$12,000 check to Shadd Phillips, Executive Director for The Boys and Girls Clubs, and Linnette Hines of the Highlandtown Club.*

term commitment to getting kids more physically active, is playing a fundamental role in the youth clinics that are part of the tour. The program's mission is to increase physical activity in youth, ages 8 – 15, offering the support and motivation to become physically active, stay healthy and have fun.

The Salvation Army Boys and Girls Clubs are always in search of dedicated volunteer coaches, mentors, tutors and more. To find out more about these and other Salvation Army programs, call 410-783-2920.

## Local girl awarded state recognition *continued from page 2*

announce the winner and they said my name."

Hines now moves on to the next stage of competition, Northeast Youth of the Year, where she will face competition from other states located in the Boys and Girls Club of America's Northeast region. That level of the program will be held in New York City in June.

If named regional winner, she would receive a \$500 scholarship and would advance to the national championship in Washington, DC next September, where that title and a \$10,000 college scholarship are at stake. The winner of the national Youth of the Year title is able to meet with senators and congressmen as well as the President, along with his or her induction at a special breakfast for nominees from all five geographic regions.

At the state level, each local club is able to nominate one person for the award. Hines said that she completed an application packet in which she described herself, the obstacles she had overcome, her work within the club, her mentoring of other members, contributions to the community, schoolwork and other activities, as well as plans for the future. She was also required to speak to a committee and to discuss the things she had stated on her application. And as the last of the state nominees to speak, she had plenty of time to worry about what she was going to say.

"Out of all of them, I was the nervous one," she admitted, laughing. "I get nervous being around people I don't know, but I went in and was myself."

That was enough for the committee. Hines' aunt, Anissa Lane, was delighted.

"I just think she is an exceptional person," she said. "She has overcome so much, and come so far. She just keeps pressing on. She still surprises me."

Hines admitted that self-doubt has always been her worst enemy. "I don't listen to what other people say about me. I put myself down."

It was something, she said, that was actually the cause of her downfall at Poly.

"I just didn't think I could do it," she said, recalling her problems with her studies. After transferring to Patterson, however, and seeing how well she could do when she applied herself to honors and advanced placement courses, she

thought differently.

"Once I was out of Poly, I thought, 'I could have done that. What was I doing?'"

Still, she doesn't spend too much time worrying about the past. She keeps herself busy helping out at the club, assisting with arts and crafts, dance, drama and occasionally with the club's 'Power Hour,' a time to do homework. At home she helps out her aunt with the care of her younger cousins, and at school helps other students with their work.

Her future plans include attending Clark University to study business management or education, with the goal of either owning her own business or teaching.

"I can see myself teaching," she says.

She attributes much of her success and inspiration to her aunt, her grandmother, Pernel Squirrel, her grandfather, Leonard Rustin and Andrea Lane, a close cousin. She also mentions Raymond Stern and Steve White, and unit director for the Highlandtown club Shadd Phillips as positive influences on her life.

"I have them all to thank," she said.

Eight years of involvement in the Boys




Hines and seven other Boys and Girls Club members competed for the title of 2004 Maryland Youth of The Year.

and Girls Club has kept her busy, her aunt noted, but it has been a constructive use of her time, and has turned her into a young adult, rather than a rebellious adolescent. The clubs provide a range of supervised daily activities for ages 6-18, and focus on character and leadership development, education, the arts, life skills, sports, fitness and recreation.

Hines' success is a tribute not only to the good the club can do in a young person's life, but also, says her aunt, of the strength of her own character in persevering and not giving in to the temptations that face so many teens.

"There's a lot of things she could be out there doing," Lane said, "but she isn't like that; she isn't your typical teenager. She's an extremely well-rounded young lady."




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scholarships to Camp Puh'tok for 14 – 18 additional youth through The Sunshine Lady Foundation.

Of course, this is only a small portion of the population of thousands of youth ages 6 – 13 who attend Camp Puh'tok annually. In an atmosphere that respects diversity, campers of all ages, genders, ethnicities, religions and countries are given the opportunity to bond with each other and with nature through a uniquely designed



*Studies have shown that organized camping has tremendous potential for constructive social, physical, spiritual and emotional development of young people.*

Native American environment and program. Each day provides new experiences such as biking, swimming, hiking, rafting, campfires, horseback riding and more, all designed with a genuine goal of teaching social skills development, self-respect, character- and team-building, community living and service skills.



*Since 1942 Camp Puh'tok has been serving children of the Baltimore Metropolitan area and is proud to be a member of the American Camping Association.*

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## Mission Statement

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.



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