



# POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE, INC.

## The best friend a kid can have

PAL News

Spring 2018

Each day the Police Athletic League provides safe spaces for New York City's youth to play, learn, and grow nurtured by special relationships with PAL professionals and police officers. Thanks to supporters like you PAL is able to operate diverse programs from Head Start to middle school programs and more. We have evening drop-in teen centers, college readiness, youth employment and juvenile justice programs; all which focus on the betterment of our kids.

PAL's Teen Centers operate 2 to 5 nights per week and typically run from 6:00-9:00pm. There are PAL teen centers located in all 5 boroughs, in some of the city's most challenging neighborhoods. Activities include open gym, dance, individual tutoring, life skills workshops and Cops and Kids Sports tournaments. PAL affords teens the flexibility to explore their own interests while working towards college and transitioning into adulthood. Each year over 3,500 teens participate in PAL's Teen programs.



### INTRODUCING: CARLOS COCCO

Carlos Cocco is a PAL teen from the Webster Center in the Bronx. For the past 5 years he has taken advantage of PAL resources, focusing on college, attending open gym, and building relationships with police officers. He has even dedicated some of his time volunteering to help younger PAL kids with homework and other activities.

For Carlos, attending PAL is his choice. "If PAL wasn't an option, I'd most likely be home or in the park playing basketball, so I choose to come here." PAL allows him the freedom to explore his own interest in

sports, yet exposes him to other things as well. Prior to attending the Police Athletic League, Carlos' only focus was becoming a professional basketball player. Now, because of his experience with the Police Athletic League, and officers from the 46th Precinct in the Bronx, he has a growing interest in becoming a Police Officer.

There was once a time where Carlos hesitated at the idea of police interaction. Now at 17, Carlos has developed a respect and appreciation for the police officers he comes into contact with. "Police officers make us feel safe and protected" he says. His experience at PAL is what helped bridge that gap. Police Officers have assisted him with his college process and

taught him things about specific laws and his rights. Most importantly, it is the discipline they have instilled in him that he appreciates the most.

Everyday PAL accomplishes its mission to support and inspire NYC youth in realizing their full individual potential as productive members of society and Carlos Cocco is just one example of that.

The PAL Teen Centers are supported by individuals and a select group of corporate sponsors: Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Lily Auchincloss Foundation, Morgan Stanley and Bloomberg L.P.

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Frederick J. Watts

## YOU MAKE EVERY SEASON AT PAL AN EXCITING ONE!

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe but we are halfway through our 2018 after school program year, which thus far has been quite successful. We are working with thousands of young people and our education department has been busy providing curriculum to our 20 free afterschool programs while planning big city-wide events that happen during school breaks. Our Winter Break Holiday Camp culminated with a "Tournament of Champions" at our Edward Byrne Center in Jamaica Queens. Over 200 young people participated in both sports and academic activities with the best winning PAL trophies.



In this issue of the newsletter you will read about how your support is helping us reach more teens and build an even stronger early education program. Our early education programs are not just for the little ones, but provide programming support for the whole family. We have family reading programs and a full array of support programming. At PAL we understand that to help a child reach his or her potential we have to help the family reach theirs. Last year nearly every child in our Pre-K program was ready for kindergarten and this only happens because of the wonderful work the PAL staff does with the children and the families.

On the other end of the age spectrum, teens like Carlos Cocco whom you met on the front page, are coming to PAL Teen Centers for both structured and "drop-in" programs. Our goal with our teens is to provide a safe place for them to hang out and then to invite them to get involved in other activities like mentoring, college prep and sports programs. Drop-in programs provide an entry point for every teen entering a PAL center.

Carlos mentioning his interest in the NYPD confirms what, Assistant Chief Royster of the New York Police Department's Community Affairs Bureau has observed: that there is a real parallel between PAL kids and those who enter the NYPD. By introducing kids to the police officers in their local precinct, we help create an understanding between the police and community. That leads to better, safer communities, but may also lead to brighter futures for PAL children. Your support makes that happen. I also want to thank everyone who supported this year's Legal Lunch which honored The Honorable Michael B. Mukasey and Alexandra A.E. Shapiro. We are grateful to all of the committee members without whom the lunch would not be possible. PAL has launched a new young professionals group called The PAL Contemporaries. They are hosting a series of volunteer and social events starting with a spring fundraiser on May 10th. You can read more about the Contemporaries and how you might get involved in this newsletter.

Finally, I want to thank all of the individuals, foundations and corporations that support PAL together we are the best friend a kid can have.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Frederick J. Watts.

Frederick J. Watts  
Executive Director

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## ASSISTANT CHIEF KIM ROYSTER INSPIRATION TO PAL'S YOUTH

The Police Athletic League's special connection with the NYPD allows police officers to work closely with our PAL youth throughout the city, serving as teammates, role models, mentors, and positive influences. These fascinating individuals come with their own life experience and are passionate about influencing the next generation, in every capacity. This is certainly true for Assistant Chief Kim Royster.

"Before becoming a police officer, I knew the Police Athletic League was profound in communities. So when I attended a PAL event and saw the passion of PAL's Board of Directors and its Executive Director, I knew I wanted to get involved!" she said.

The highest-ranking African American female within the NYPD, Assistant Chief Royster understands the effect PAL has on children and their communities. After years of working within the NYPD, Assistant Chief Royster began to notice that a number of Police Officers were once PAL kids. She recognized PAL's ability to be a pipeline for engaging kids in careers and college readiness, including jobs with the NYPD.

Assistant Chief Royster first entered the NYPD in 1985 as a police administrative aide. "Having a great support system and seeing people who look like me in positions of power let me know I could do it, too" she says. This is what inspired her efforts to keep growing and working hard throughout her career within the NYPD. Now, she intends to pay it forward and inspire today's youth in the same way.

Through partnerships with PAL programs, such as a career day for summer youth employment, or speaking at PAL's Girl Talk program geared towards empowering young girls, Assistant Chief Royster helps to inspire all of PAL's youth. The priority is to engage the kids within their communities. Those kids will then grow into adults who do the same for future kids.

When asked for any last thoughts, Assistant Chief Royster quoted the late Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm who said, "Service is the rent we pay for living on this Earth."

We are grateful to Assistant Chief Royster and all of the Police Officers who provide their service to our communities and to PAL.

# BOBBY FERAZI

## DIRECTOR OF TEEN PROGRAMMING

*“Despite what program a student decides to attend, their main focus is college readiness. This commitment is non-negotiable”*

– Bobby Ferazi

As the Police Athletic League moves into its 104th year of service, providing New York City’s youth with structured programming remains a priority throughout our evolution. From summer camps to after-school and more, PAL allows our youth to interact, learn and build in safe environments created for their development. This is especially important for our teenagers.

The teenage years are a time of change for how our youth think, feel and interact with others. Bobby Ferazi, PAL’s Director of Teen Programming, understands the importance of offering our participants the chance to engage in opportunities to develop the life skills they can take with them to college and adulthood.

**Q:** As Director of Teen Programming, how important is PAL programming for our teens?

**A:** PAL’s teen programs are extremely important because they provide the right amount of structure and freedom for students to explore their own interests while they cultivate and better develop their critical thinking, leadership and life skills. It is also an important time for students to prepare for more responsibility while declaring their individual independence.

**Q:** What type of programs does PAL provide for New York City teens?

**A:** Depending on a student’s interest, PAL provides an array of programs. From sports, to acting, individual tutoring, life skills workshops, Cops and Kids programs and more. The common thread for every program is our focus on graduation. Despite what program a student decides to attend, their main focus is college readiness. This commitment is non-negotiable.

**Q:** How does PAL prepare its teens for college?

**A:** By making sure our students have access to the college process, we are making them aware of their opportunities. From assistance with the application process to college field trips, PAL teens leave fully prepared for their transition into adulthood.



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A Charitable Gift Annuity works to your own advantage for your lifetime. When the payments to you end the remaining balance goes to PAL to help future generations of children reach their fullest potential.

Of course, a simple bequest, stock or bond gift, or even a life insurance designation opens a world of possibilities for thousands of boys and girls.

For more information contact Renee Jamerson at (212) 477-9450 x. 353 to secure your financial future as well as the future of PAL.

## LOOKING FORWARD TO PAL'S 2018 SPECIAL EVENTS

PAL's 2017 season of fundraising events was a huge success, raising \$3,285,000 to support arts, athletic and academic programs for 30,000 children and youth all over the city.

The 2018 season is already off to a wonderful start. On April 12 at The Pierre, the **20th Annual Legal Profession Luncheon** presented the Robert M. Morgenthau Award to **Hon. Michael B. Mukasey and Alexandra A.E. Shapiro**. The event was chaired by Evan T. Barr, Bart M. Schwartz, and Charles A. Stillman.

Our monthly **Business Luncheons** have already raised over \$60,000 with speakers **Leticia "Tish" James and Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan**.

This summer, the **2nd Annual Tony Danza & the Stars of Tomorrow** will raise money for PAL's Acting Program with a benefit concert and after theatre party the evening of June 28 at the Gerald W. Lynch Theater.

Later this year, PAL will host its **46th Annual Superstar Dinner**, the **13th Annual Real Estate & Construction Luncheon**, the **4th Annual 5K Run/Walk** and the **30th Annual Women of the Year Luncheon**. Details on all these events, along with additional business luncheons, will be announced in the coming weeks. Information on all these events can



Lisa Friel, Special Counsel for Investigations at the NLF, and Kathryn A. Lu, Executive Vice President and Chief Compliance Officer at Mutual of America Life Insurance Company, were honored at PAL's 29th Annual Women of the Year Luncheon at The Pierre Hotel.

be found on our website or call PAL's Development Department at 212-477-9450 ext 307 or 309.

## PAL STARTS NEW YOUNG PROFESSIONAL GROUP - THE PAL CONTEMPORARIES

The Police Athletic League is excited to announce the fruition of PAL Contemporaries. The PAL Contemporaries is a new group of young professionals whose mission is to expand the public's awareness of the Police Athletic League and to bring together like-minded young professionals. The group is lucky to have four dynamic co-chairs for 2018. They are Ryan Howard, Linnea Wilson, Lucy Lang, and Jordan Arnold.

Together we have designed a great set of activities for the group for 2018. We kicked off the year with an event this past January, at the PAL William J Duncan Center in Manhattan. The group enjoyed hors d'oeuvres while hearing from PAL's Executive Director Fred Watts, and Board Member Rikki

Klieman. Klieman will also be serving as the board liaison for the group. She spoke about the importance of bringing the next generations of PAL supporters and champions together, and that she is excited for the year ahead.

The next social event is May 10th at the Woolly Public in the Woolworth building, where the Contemporaries will host a cocktail fundraiser.

If you or someone you know is interested in joining the PAL contemporaries, or attending the cocktail party please contact Evan Ressegger at [eressegger@palnyc.org](mailto:eressegger@palnyc.org) or 347-477-9450 Ext. 355.



## EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAM LEADING THE WAY



We have a little-known gem among the wide variety of programs that we offer at PAL. It is our Early Childhood Education program, which serves 550 girls and boys, ages 2-5, in Brooklyn and Queens. Our research-based curriculum across six centers focuses on developmental learning and also exposes kids to dance and music.

Our neighboring public schools speak highly of this program. In fact, 100% of our kids graduate our program Kindergarten ready.

Another strong component of our Early Childhood Education program is that parents work closely with us. Our parents volunteer in classes, attend monthly family workshops and even take part in literacy efforts such as our signature initiative "Bridging the Achievement Gap."

Through this initiative, we lend books to parents who then read them to their children at home. We make sure that the vocabulary from the selected books are incorporated into lesson planning. We have found that it is a great way to enhance our children's vocabulary and reading skills.

Thanks to the funding from New York City Administration for Children's Services and your support, we are getting New York's toddlers ready to take on the rigors of full-day schooling.

