



Chester Bowl Improvement Club

# Annual Report

May 1, 2012 – April 30, 2013

## **Vision Statement:**

To promote sustainable, quality programs for all  
Chester Bowl Park users in a healthy and safe environment.

1801 EAST SKYLINE, DULUTH, MN 55812 (218) 724-9832 INFO@CHESTERBOWL.ORG CHESTERBOWL.ORG

The Chester Bowl Improvement Club is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are fully tax-deductible.



## Chester Bowl Improvement Club

### From the Board Chair

Dear Chester Bowl Friends,

The Solstice Flood of 2012 was doubtlessly the most significant single event of the past year, for Chester Bowl and for the broader Twin Ports community alike. Scores of families, businesses, and organizations experienced traumatic losses, and our community's public infrastructure was devastated. The initial shock of the flood's physical transformations was particularly acute, with the failure of the upper dam and the raw power of Chester Creek a noteworthy example. However, the days and weeks following the flood provided the images that ultimately defined the event and our community's response to it: teams of volunteers working house-by-house, providing assistance to victims; benefit events organized on the fly, raising money to rebuild our community; and hundreds upon hundreds of individuals, on two separate days, cleaning up a park that is dear to all of us. Nearly one year later much work remains, but the core values of the Chester Bowl Improvement Club—especially volunteerism and philanthropy—ensure that our summer and winter programming continue successfully.

The Chester Bowl Adventure Day Camp, which we expanded last year to three full eight-hour days per week over a ten-week period, was only briefly interrupted by the flood when the dangerously high creek forced cancellation of

camp activities. The popular outdoor recreation and field trips soon resumed, and once again the program was full every day. Increased staffing allowed more kids to participate, and our organization benefitted from an ongoing relationship with True North AmeriCorps, which provided two volunteers throughout the summer to help with the Adventure Camp. These volunteers had been assigned to schools during the academic year, and they wanted to continue their active, hands-on work with kids during the summer months. This three-way partnership of True North, local schools, and the Chester Bowl Improvement Club proved so successful that the 2013 Adventure Camp will once again include staff members from AmeriCorps. We expect the upcoming summer to be our best yet.

One of the first questions many Chester Bowlers asked following the flood was just how our ski program could function with a flowing creek in place of the upper pond. Given no other option, the community rallied and made it work. Volunteers removed the largest stones from and helped level the rock outwash at the base of the hill. The City of Duluth rewired and repaired the lift, which had been hit by lightning. Generous grants allowed us to have the ski lift painted and to pursue new snowmaking options. Mont Du Lac and the City consulted to improve water pressure for the increased snowmaking that would be necessary, and the last piece of the puzzle was put in place when the City provided a



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bridge to access the ski hill. While we suffered through a dry early winter, we were gifted with copious snowfall at the end of the season, and for the second straight year we set records for participation, with over seven hundred individuals from over four hundred families renting equipment and skiing at Chester.

The successful ski season provided much information that will guide future planning for Chester Bowl Park. The City of Duluth's Mini Master Plan for the park, which was put on hold immediately after the flood to focus on short-term recovery, is about to get back on track in earnest now that we have a year's worth of data about what works, what doesn't, and what visions for the park our community has. In the months since the flood much emotional and intellectual energy has focused on the question of pond versus stream, and in the coming months a decision—probably a compromise decision—will be made on this issue. It will be critical, though, for our organization to remain engaged in the Mini Master Plan process beyond this one topic. We have a once in a lifetime opportunity to help shape a park that will become even more responsive to, and beloved by, numerous user groups in our community.

Just as the flood's physical impacts on the park have brought out our community's steady commitment to Chester Bowl, the dramatic growth in our club in recent years has highlighted our consistent values. Peace in the Park, volunteerism, and healthy, safe outdoor

recreation are hallmarks of the CBIC; prioritizing these aspects of our club's culture has allowed us to expand the scope and scale of our programming while retaining our organizational identity. Since this identity is much of what draws people to our club in the first place, as a board we are determined to maintain the values that define us even as our organization continues to evolve. At our Board of Directors' 2012 Strategic Planning Retreat last September, we explored different models of staffing and board governance. Our continued growth has been challenging for our volunteer board and our small staff alike. In the next two years, as we prepare for Executive Director Thom Storm's retirement, we expect to increase staffing levels. We are actively pursuing the partnerships and support necessary to make these investments, and we also are working to find the model of board governance that best supports our evolving organization. Much of our Board of Directors' time and energy in the coming months will be devoted to ensuring a smooth transition for staff and members alike. Please consider contributing to this process, whether by sharing your opinions and experiences at a board meeting, offering your skills and services as a potential member of our board, or anything in between.

Sincerely,

Curt Leitz  
Chair, CBIC Board of Directors



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## 2012-2013 Financials

Beginning balance	\$94,795.69
Ending balance	\$143,239.78
Income	\$181,182.78
Expenses	\$132,768.69
Operating Income (Loss)	\$48,444.09

### Major Sources of Income

Category	Income	Percent
Winter Program	\$ 56,398.94	31.1%
Summer Program	\$ 29,004.59	16.0%
FallFest	\$ 15,675.97	8.7%
Donations	\$ 8,565.00	4.7%
Flood Relief Donation	\$ 3,798.00	2.1%
City of Duluth Grant	\$ 24,095.00	13.2%
Other Grants	\$ 31,680.00	17.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$169,217.50</b>	<b>93.4%</b>

### Major Expenses

Category	Expense	Percent
Wages/Payroll	\$63,512.55	47.8%
Repairs/Maintenance	\$27,843.94	21.0%
Insurance	\$18,480.08	13.9%
Summer Program	\$7,325.74	5.5%
Winter Program	\$5,000.16	3.8%
Fundraising	\$3,380.38	2.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$125,542.85</b>	<b>94.6%</b>



Chester Bowl Improvement Club

## 2012-13 Board of Directors

Chester Bowl Improvement Club's board of directors comprises CBIC members who combine a commitment to the shared vision of CBIC with exceptional leadership and business skills. Elected board members serve three-year terms, coincident with CBIC's fiscal year. Listed below, by year in which their term ends, are the directors on CBIC's board, their occupations and representative accomplishments.

### Term expiring April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013:

#### **Mark Hanna**

Sports and Recreation Coordinator; Courage Center Duluth

Director, CBIC, 2010-present; Treasurer, 2010-2011; Development Committee 2009-present; Organizational Development Leader 2009

Camp Miller Committee; YMCA, 2010-present  
Grantsmanship Center training; 2009

#### **Nora Sandstad**

Associate Attorney; Hanft Fride, PA

Director, CBIC, 2010-present; Chair Nominations Committee 2011-present; Secretary, 2010-2011; Programming Committee 2010-2012

Regional Advisory Committee; Planned Parenthood, 2009-present

Volunteer Educator; Planned Parenthood, 2005-2009

#### **Peter Spooner**

Director, CBIC, 2009-present; Chair Programs Committee, 2009-2010; Historical Committee Duluth Public Library Advisory Board; 2008-present

Founding Board Member, The Artist Fund, Duluth, 2003-present;

Duluth Public Arts Commission member, 2009-present;

Basic Patroller, EMC and ski toboggan training; National Ski Patrol, 2007-present

#### **Andrea Mistelski (interim appointment)**

Self-Employed independent distributor Premier Designs Jewelry

Director, CBIC, 2013-present, Programming Committee 2012-present;

Special Olympics Board, 2009-2010

Special Olympics volunteer, 2005-Present

Church Activities, Present



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### Term expiring April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014:

#### **Mark Berns**

Vice President, CFO, H. Christiansen Co.  
Director, CBIC, 2009-present; Chair Executive Committee, 2009-2010; Chair Finance Committee 2011-present; Finance Committee, 2009-present  
Chair Facilities Planning Commission, St. John's Hospital  
Executive Board, M&S Inc., 1990-1992, 1997-present

#### **Ann Myers**

Physical Therapist, Essentia Health  
Director, CBIC, 2010-present; Secretary 2011-present  
Parent Volunteer, Edison Schools, 2003-present  
Coordinator, Women In the Outdoors, Gitchi Gummi Chapter, 2001-2006  
Board Member, Duluth Rowing Club, 1990-1996

#### **George Vacek**

Global Director, Life Sciences Business, Convey Computer Corporation, 2009-present  
Director, CBIC, 2009-present; Chair Executive Committee, 2010-2012; Chair Master Plan Committee 2012-present; Vice-Chair Executive Committee, 2009-2010; Chair Nominations Committee, 2009-2011  
Business Director, Scientific Research Solutions, Hewlett-Packard 2005-2009

### Term expiring April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015:

#### **Michael Cameron**

Owner, Boulder Creek Golf Course  
Director, CBIC, 2010-present  
Member, Michigan Special Olympics  
GCC Ski Area Management Review Board, 1984-1987  
Host, Michigan Special Olympics Golf, 2002-present

#### **Lori Hoyum**

Policy Manager; Minnesota Power  
Director, CBIC, 2009-present; Chair Human Resource Committee, 2010-present; Programs Committee, 2009-2010; Finance Committee, 2009-2010  
Human Resources Manager; Duluth Public Schools, 1998-2008  
Secretary, Board member; American Society for Training and Development, 1993-1997  
Blandin Leadership Training, 2007

#### **Curt Leitz**

Director, CBIC, 2009-present; Chair Executive Committee, 2012-present; Vice-Chair Executive Committee 2011-12; Chair Programs Committee, 2010-2012  
President, Izaak Walton League of America, Minnesota Division, 2009-2011; Vice-President, 2007-2009  
Board member, Izaak Walton League of America, Duluth Chapter, 2006-present