



# NEWSLETTER

## A note from the President - *Frank Perrotti*

Un saluto a tutti i miei fratelli! As I reflect on the past three months I'm more than pleased with our club's accomplishments and progress in a number of areas. The month of October started with a salute to Christopher Columbus, encompassing ceremonial and parade activities over the weekend of 10/12 – 10/14. We had member meetings that featured guest speakers on the topics of Italian Culture (Dr. Raeleen D'Agostino Mautner – “The Wisdom of Our Italian Heritage”) and Public Art in New Haven (Laura Macaluso – “Looking at Columbus: Over Two Centuries of Change”), both of which proved to be very interesting. The Annual Wine Tasting event was held on the 17th in partnership with a new benefactor this year, The Clifford Beers Clinic of New Haven, and resulted in a healthy success for both organizations. With an eye on community service, we gave a large boost to the East Haven Food Bank by collecting goods throughout the month and donating them in time for Thanksgiving. On a personal level the month was spent reaching the peak of training for the Marine Corps Marathon (President's Project), which was successfully completed on the 27th. The month of November was highlighted by honoring our Past Presidents and Life members at the November 19th meeting. It was a pleasure to see so many of our members pay tribute to those that have helped forge the character of the club and continue upholding the traditions and aspirations of our founders. Most recently we held our annual Christmas Party on December 10th. The event was extremely well attended despite the snow that day, with close to 140 guests. The evening was marked by holiday celebration and also the conclusion of the President's Project. A formal presentation of the financial results was made, and mementos from the Marine Corps Marathon were presented to our honored guests Michael and Donna Soufrine, parents of Eric Soufrine, for whom the project honored. It's worthwhile to note that year to date we've raised in

excess of \$50,000 in conjunction with The Amity Charitable Trust!



*Mr & Mrs Frank Perrotti present mementos from the Marine Corps Marathon to Michael and Donna Soufrine parents of Eric Soufrine.*

Looking ahead into the first quarter of the year we'll be celebrating sons and daughters at the January 7th meeting and inducting three new members on January 21st. The month of February features two “Prospective New Member” meetings. I want to remind everyone that the addition of new and qualified members is critically important to the future of our organization. Please help us identify prospective candidates and consider sponsoring someone that you believe will be a good addition to the club. It's hard to believe that we're halfway through the year! There's been an increased level of attendance at member meetings and social events this year, a sign that we have more of our membership interested and engaged. Overall, we've experienced much success with regard to social, financial, and community service goals that were established at the onset of this year. *(continued on page 2)*

When you reflect on all that we've done together it is my hope that you feel the same sense of accomplishment as I do. On behalf of the Officers and Board of Directors I sincerely thank you for your contributions. Best wishes to you and your family for a warm, safe, and healthy holiday season!

***Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo!***

*AMITY CLUB PRESIDENT HONORS FALLEN SOLDIER*

*-Dominic Twobill*

Amity Club President Frank Perrotti ran, and completed, his first marathon October 27, 2013. A U.S. Marine veteran, he ran in the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, DC.

Perrotti dedicated his marathon to the memory of Eric Soufrine. A Woodbridge native, the 20 year old Soufrine was killed in action while serving with the U.S. Army in Afghanistan in 2011. A year ago, his parents, Mr. And Mrs. Soufrine, started a scholarship in Eric's memory with the Amity Charitable Trust, the philanthropic arm of the New Haven-based Amity Club.

In keeping with the tradition of each Amity Club President choosing a project to benefit the community, Perrotti dedicated to train for the Marine Corps Marathon and, thereby, generate support for the Eric Soufrine Memorial Scholarship Fund. He felt this was an appropriate way to help perpetuate the memory of a young man who made the ultimate sacrifice by giving his life on behalf of his country.

Perrotti, a Hamden resident, traveled to Washington with his wife, Barbara, and his father, Pasquale. With their support and his determination, he completed the 26.2 mile run through our nation's capital in five hours and five minutes. Exhausted, but gratified, at the end of his run, Perrotti stood proudly wearing his Marine Corps colors with Eric Soufrine's name emblazoned across his back.

Not only had he completed his first marathon in his first attempt, but his effort raised \$14,000 for the Eric Soufrine Memorial Scholarship Fund from a variety of sources. The Fund provides scholarship support to qualified students from the greater New Haven area.

The Amity Charitable Trust has provided more than \$1.2 million in scholarships and grants to students and education, healthcare, and human service organizations over the years. Gifts to the Eric Soufrine Memorial Scholarship Fund may be sent to Amity Charitable Trust, P.O. Box 4129, Yalesville, CT 06492.



*Amity Club President Frank Perrotti at the completion of the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C.*

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## MEMBER NEWS

### COOKING IN THE COMMUNITY - TONY PINTO

- *Thomas Ciesco*

Recently featured in both the Guilford Courier and the North Branford Sound, Anthony Pinto was one of the subjects of an article titled “An Exceptional Example of Men Who Cook.” For the past six years, Tony has served as a chef and a Sous Chef Sponsor for a program benefiting the Women and Family Life Center. Tony has been supplying a variety of wines for the program. According to the article, during the event, both professional and home cooks from area towns prepare their best dishes “... with its new cocktail party format, full dinner in inventive ‘small bite’ courses, chef competitions, and exciting auctions.”

Next year, Tony will partake in the “Men Who Cook” event. Similar to Amity Club’s purpose, the mission of the event is to help those less fortunate in the Greater New Haven community. For more information and to support Tony, you can visit the Women and Family Life Center website at [www.womenfamilies.org](http://www.womenfamilies.org).

For the past 13 years, Tony has been cooking at the “Community Dining Room” in Branford. The Community Dining Room serves a healthy meal at noon, seven days a week, along with a Tuesday evening family dinner. The family dinner was created to help serve the need of struggling families who needed help with a night out from cooking. Tony and his crew of volunteers cook whenever there is a fifth Tuesday of the month.

In addition to the above, Tony was honored by the Cystic Fibrosis and Multiple Sclerosis Fund for his contributions to their annual Gala.

A friend of Tony’s and a fellow Amity Club member, Joe Buzzuto said, “It is always easy to give praise to an individual like Tony, when a person sees the end result of one of his projects. It’s behind the scenes that Tony shines ... The pride he has as a member I am unable to put to words. The work he does for the club and outside the club, has made people around him better for knowing him.”



Serving on the Amity Club Board of Directors from 2009 thru 2012, Tony Pinto has been an active member since joining in 2005, serving as Chairman of the Scholarship Committee for the past 4 years. Also, Tony initiated the Wine Cruises 7 years ago.

Tony is an exemplary figure when it comes to supporting organizations which help people in need. His support of the community is not only shown in his efforts for the Amity Club, but in his support of many local organizations which help the community. People like Tony, who take the time and effort to help out those who are less fortunate, make a significant difference in those lives. Tony’s commitment to the community is exemplary as both an Amity Club member and a citizen of the community that he serves.

## AMITY CLUB EVENTS

AMITY WINE TASTING WHAT A SUCCESS!

- *Michael C. Maddelena*



*L to R: Yasmin and Michael Maddelena, John Courtmanche (back), Anthony Carusone (front), Paul Dorsi, Frank & Renee Mascia, Vin Liberti, Ralph & Maria Minichino.*

*The guys are all graduates of the class of 1984 of Notre Dame H.S.*

The Wine Tasting benefiting the **Amity Charitable Trust** and the **Clifford Beers Clinic** was a great success. We raised over \$10,000 to benefit both organizations.

Clifford Beers Clinic, has dedicated much of 2013 to providing accessible community-based mental health services to children, families and adults in Greater New Haven . The Amity Charitable Trust has supported the Greater New Haven community for nearly 50 years by providing scholarships and grants to nonprofit organizations. The Amity Charitable Trust has given well over \$1.2 million to our community and will continue to give in perpetuity.



By the efforts of our members and help from Clifford Beers, 350 tickets were sold. That evening, our guests enjoyed tasting an array of wine provided by Grand Vin, sampling a tremendous variety of food from Anthony's Ocean View and socializing with a wonderful group of community minded supporters. In the end, the event was not just a great night out but also a way to support the critical needs of so many in Greater New Haven.



*Amity Club President Frank Perrotti, and Committee Chair Michael Maddelena present a check to Alice Forrester, Executive Director, and Kitty Champlin, Development Director, of the Clifford Beers Clinic.*

On behalf of the Clifford Beers Clinic and the Amity Charitable Trust, we appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you again at **next year's Wine Tasting on Thursday, October 16th.**



SUCCESSFUL DRIVE FOR EAST HAVEN FOOD PANTRY

- Frank Perrotti



In keeping with its Community Service goals, The Amity Club completed a successful food drive in October that benefitted the East Haven Food Pantry. Special thanks are in order for member Joe Bozzuto (also serving on the Board of Directors) for acting as the chairperson and coordinator for the drive. Joe conceived and proposed the idea, coordinated the needs with the

Food Pantry, and personally collected and delivered a substantial amount of donated goods.

Conducting the drive during the month of October provided ample time to get the Food Pantry stocked in time for Thanksgiving. The folks that operate the pantry were extremely gracious to us for our contributions, which, by the way were sorely needed. It's very gratifying to know that we were able to make a significant impact into our local community by performing one of the most simple, yet critically important goals, feeding people in need. Hats off to Joe for a job well done, and thanks to the many members who gave generously to this cause!

Please see the attached "Thank You" letter from The East Haven Food Pantry on Page 6.

- Calendar -  
Up Coming Meetings

**January 7th 2014**

Son's & Daughters Night

**January 21st 2014**

Induction of New Members

**February 4th 2014**

Prospective New Members Night

**February 18th 2014**

Prospective New Members Night



**Congratulations!**

On the birth of  
Sophia Maria, born November 5th to  
**Vincenzo and Vanessa Gallo**

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On the birth of  
John Conner Ball, born December 2nd  
Grandson to  
**Frank and Janis D'Andrea**

**IN MEMORIAM**

*Phillip Votto Jr. - Member from 1973 to 2013*



**Do you have a story?**

If you have a story or an idea to share with the Club,  
please contact us at: [newsletter@amityclub.org](mailto:newsletter@amityclub.org)

The Newsletter Committee:

Thomas Ciesco, Dennis Flanders, Anthony Pinto, and Dom Twohill



*Buon Natale e felice anno  
nuovo!*



39 PARK PLACE

East Haven, CT 06512

October 18, 2013

Mr Joseph Bozzuto and our friends in the Amity Club,

We cannot begin to express our thanks for the outstanding food drive that you held throughout the month of October on behalf of the East Haven Food Pantry. We are in dire need, at this time, with help in stocking our shelves. Your drive accomplished that and then some. It was estimated to be over 20 over-flowing shopping carts full of food that took an entire morning to put on shelves by our very happy volunteers.

Again, thank you so much.

Most sincerely,

Linda Davy  
EHFP secretary