



CHANGING THE GAME



Husky Sport’s After-School Coordinator Derek Santiago and Clark students enjoying the Fall Fest

1st Annual Clark Community Fall Fest at J.C. Clark Elementary & Middle School

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Husky Sport 101

Husky Sport students and staff work to positively engage with members of the Hartford, CT and UConn communities through the development of right relationships with youth, their adult family members, college students, and community organization collaborators. Through efforts in schools, after school and weekend programs, Husky Sport aims to be a continuous part of the lives of children and families in Hartford’s

North End. This process occurs as Husky Sport looks to both reinforce and teach the making of positive life choices in the following four areas:

- 1) Healthy nutrition
- 2) Relevant and transferable life skills
- 3) Exposure to varied sports and physical activities
- 4) Academic opportunity and excellence

Words From The Director



Welcome to the first Husky Sport Newsletter of 2011-2012! Seems

like there has been so much happening that we keep waiting to send this out. The spring and summer marked tremendous growth in our staff with the graduation of Dr. Justin Evanovich and Dr. Rhema Fuller. Congratulations to both and we are excited to see Rhema succeeding as an Assistant Professor at Alfred State College (NY) and Justin continuing to form and develop relationships in Hartford as an Assistant Director for Husky Sport. We also wish the best to six of our graduating master’s students-- Brittany Perotti at New York Cares (NY), Brittany Hunter at The Harlem Success Academy (NY), Loren Darrington Fuller at Alfred State College (NY), Gianna Smith at Capital Prep High School (CT). Xaimara Coss moved

on to work for the National Basketball Association in New York City as well. Danielle Derosa has remained with Husky Sport to become a Program Supervisor for Teens Through College and Husky Sport’s new partnership with Capital Prep High School, in addition to overseeing the development of the new one credit Health and Education in Urban Communities classes in Storrs.

We maintained continuity with Devon Wilson-Hill continuing in her master’s program and working with Husky Sport’s after school program and Ray Cotrufo (PhD program) with Husky Sport research. Also added Husky Sport veterans Emmanuel Omokaro (Teens Through College, Sport and Nutrition Clinics, and transportation), as well as School of Social Work students Patti Bellamy (Clark In-School Program) and Laura Harris (Catholic

Through College) as graduate assistants. We also hired Tiffanie Russell, a graduate student in UConn School of Social Work to assist in the Clark In-School Program.

The most significant change in the Husky Sport staffing plan was the addition of nine AmeriCorps positions for 2011-2012 in the form of two Public Allies (Erinn Arbelaez-Read & Raise and Derek Santiago-After School Program), two VISTA development assistants (Alex Ortega and Evan Timme) and five Coach Across America members (Floyd Grier, Alicia Waring, Angela Finn, Nicole Squadrito, Mike Evanovich). We still have three spots to fill this spring for Coach Across America as well.

As you will see this great staff has things up and running in full force this fall. Hope you enjoy reading more about what they’ve been doing.

- Dr. Jennifer Bruening

Programs Schedule

	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
AM		Clark In School	Clark In School	Clark In School		Clark In School	Catholic Worker House
PM	Teens Through College	Catholic Worker House	Clark / Parker Memorial	Salvation Army / CRT	Clark / Parker Memorial		

Programs

Clark In-School

- Weekly 45-minute classes emphasize importance of literacy, nutrition, physical activity, & life skills.
- 15 classes K-6, close to 300 students participating each week.
- Sample lessons taught this fall: Responsibility, Respect, Personal Hygiene, Conflict Resolution, Bullying & Privacy, and food pyramid.



Neag School Teacher Education Interns

- UConn education students earning their masters degrees.
- Specializing in small group additional instruction for 7th & 8th grade students.
- Assisting with test preparation and administration.
- Assisting with daily curriculum and instructions.

Clark After-School

Tuesdays & Thursdays

- Participating children are taken to Parker Memorial Recreation Center on main street (4 blocks from Clark) for after-school programs.
- Activities include: nutrition lessons and tastings, swimming, sport/games and homework help.

Wednesdays

- Tutoring sections with children at Community Renewal Team Generations (next to Clark).
- Additional nutritional and physical activities are held at the Salvation Army across from Clark on Nelson Street).

Teens Through College

- High school students from various schools attend this program held on Sunday afternoons at the Salvation Army on Nelson Street.
- The program focuses on college information, SAT prep, college application along with a family style dinner served at the end with a nutritional lesson.
- Additionally this spring, Capital Prep students will be taking a class for UConn credit in which they will learn more about Hartford, as well as national trends in urban education and health.

Catholic Worker House

Husky Sport participates twice a week at programs geared towards physical activities and academics at the *Green House* across the street from Clark School.

Mondays

- Participants have play-time followed by homework help provided by UConn students and volunteers.

Saturdays

- Husky Sport students engage in physical activities and crafts with the participant students from pre-k to high school during this program from 10:00am to 1:00 pm, nutritional family-style lunch is provided.

Read & Raise

- Literacy initiative held during the spring semester. Husky Sport staff and volunteers will spend 5-10 hours per week during Read & Raise to promote literacy in the Clark, MLK, Wish, & SAND elementary schools.
- The program aims to assist in increasing students’ reading and writing skills, personal interest in reading, and building positive relationships between UConn and Hartford students.
- Last spring a total of 56,327 books were read among all four schools.

New Faces: Meet the AmeriCorps

For the 2011-2012 academic year Husky Sport is fortunate enough to count with new staff thanks to its partnership with AmeriCorps programs. Two public allies and two VISTA (Volunteers In Service to America) will be full time staffs enhancing the everyday operations and resources of Husky Sport. This partnership comes via alliances with Public Allies of Connecticut and Up2Us, which shows both the improvement and expansion efforts Husky Sport has been experiencing in its few years working with the youth of the North End of Hartford. With these new additions to our team, not only our programs and operation will get better, but new opportunities for programming, events and funding can arrive in order to continue, better and increase our development of relationships between Hartford and UConn communities in order to continue being part of the lives of children and families in Hartford’s North End.

Erinn Arbeláez, Read & Raise Coordinator – Public Ally of Connecticut



I grew up in Ellington, CT and received a bachelor's degree in Political Science and Economics at the University of Connecticut. This year I will coordinate Husky Sport's literacy initiative Read and Raise. The main focus of the position is to work with families, teachers, students and Husky Sport staff to continue getting students at the four elementary schools we work with excited about reading. I'm excited to have the opportunity in this position to continue working with the North End community that has been so inviting and supportive. In my spare time I like to spend time with family and friends, visit the Green House and rock climb.

Derek Santiago, After School Coordinator – Public Ally of Connecticut



I was born and raised in Hartford, CT, so this community means a lot to me. I am working with Husky Sport as an After School Coordinator. It is my job to find new ways that Husky Sport can be involved with the



Public Allies Connecticut has partnered with nonprofit organizations across Bridgeport, New Haven and Hartford to create New Leaders for New Times. We are grounded in the conviction that everyone can lead; Public Allies is changing the face and practice of leadership in communities across the country by demonstrating our belief that lasting social change results **when citizens of all backgrounds step up, take responsibility, and work together.**



VISTA, Volunteers in Service to America, serves as a domestic version of the Peace Corps. The program aims to supplement efforts to **fight poverty** in low-income communities by engaging Americans from all walks of life in a year of full time service. VISTA members support the program’s purpose through three primary objectives: 1) encouraging volunteer service at the local level, 2) generating the commitment of private sector resources, and 3) strengthening local agencies and organizations that serve low-income communities. There are currently over 5,000 VISTA members serving in over 1,000 projects throughout the nation.

different services surrounding Clark Elementary School such as CRT, Catholic Worker House, Parker Memorial Recreational Center, and Salvation Army. We give the children alternative options to spend their time when school is dismissed all while continuing to promote fitness, nutrition, healthy lifestyles, and overall better futures. I look forward to advocating these values while enhancing my leadership qualities during my time with Husky Sport.

Evan M. Timme, Development Assistant – VISTA



I grew up in Annville, Pennsylvania and attended Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania. While in college I became involved in volunteer service, becoming an AmeriCorps Student Scholar in Service and ran the Outreach for Humanity Club student service oriented club. After graduating in May 2011 with a B.S. in Health Science I pursued work as an AmeriCorps VISTA. My focus is to build Husky Sport’s capacity through facilitating partnerships at UConn and in Hartford, cultivating new donors and expanding commitment of current donors, and identifying, writing and obtaining grants to support programming. In my first two months of service I have had an enjoyable time meeting partners, learning and experiencing the Husky Sport programs, and especially interacting with the children in Hartford. When not working for Husky Sport I enjoy lifting and watching college sports as well as researching health science related graduate programs for future education.

Alexander R. Ortega, Development Assistant – VISTA



I was born in Barranquilla, Colombia and moved to Hartford, CT eight years ago. While in Hartford, I attended Bulkeley High School, which gives me a clear understanding of the importance and impact a program like Husky Sport has on the students. I attended the University of Connecticut and received a B.A. in Political Science and Latin American Studies in May 2011. As a development assistant it is my hope to contribute valuable resources to Husky Sport, help with various day-to-day operations and strengthen partnerships while creating new ones. Also, I hope to find new ways to obtain funds for our programs whether by grants, gifts or fundraising activities. During my free time I enjoy playing/watching soccer games, and spending time and/or doing community service with my Fraternity brothers of Latino América Unida/Lambda Alpha Upsilon Fraternity throughout the state of Connecticut where I serve as an advisor to the UConn/ECSU chapter.



VISTA
Volunteers In Service To America



www.americorps.gov



Clark Community Fall Fest

On Thursday October 27th, 2011 Husky Sport Hosted the 1st Annual Clark Community Fall Fest. The event, a day of in school programming follow with an after school community engagement, was held at J.C. Clark Elementary & Middle School located in the North End of Hartford, CT. The purpose behind the after-school event was to focus on bringing local business and service organizations together with the members who live within the North End Community. Between 3:30pm and 5:00pm more than 18 organizations including Hartford Food Systems, Kool Smiles, C-Town Supermarket, The Salvation Army and the Hartford Police Department provided information and conversed with the community about what each

of the different organizations had to offer within the community. While many parents and other community members were busy learning about community services and businesses Husky Sport provided games and activities for the children and J. C. Clark students. A sport themed inflatable bounce house, a large inflatable slide and many open-gym activities kept the youth occupied and engaged while their parents were learning about what the North End community has to offer. In spite of the weather more than 250 individuals attended the event making it a success in trying to get the community members active and involved in the great community that the North End of Hartford truly is.

-Evan M. Timme



UConn volunteers and staff of participating organizations at the Clark Community Fall Fest



Get Active!

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Change the Game!

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