



Chief Advancement Officer Kelley Coen and Marlin DeCruz, Director of Teens & Music



Adequoyah Mathews, BGC 2025 Youth of the Year and Rhode Island Youth of the Year.

Yacht Rendezvous, under a gorgeous Newport sky, raises close to \$500,000 for Boys & Girls Club of Newport

By Kelley Coen, BGC Chief Advancement Officer | Photos By Andrea Hansen Photography

Under clear skies on the evening of June 27, 300 supporters of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Newport County gathered under a tent at the Safe Harbor Newport Shipyard for the signature Newport Yacht Rendezvous, for an evening of yacht-hopping, dinner, dancing and a spirited "Raise the Paddle" that culminated in bringing in \$464,000 to support the Club's programs and services for area children and teens.

Prior to dinner guests enjoyed the event's signature "Yacht Hop"—offering exclusive access to a stunning fleet of vessels:

- *Andromeda*: 62' Lagoon Catamaran, presented by Barton Gray Mariners Club and Nicholson Yachts
- *What's Next*: 74' Marlow Motor Yacht, presented by Greg Guay and Nicholson Yachts
- *Lexington*: 85' Horizon Motor Yacht, presented by Nicholson Yachts
- *Tree of Life*: 95' Covey Island Boatworks Schooner, presented by Nicholson Yachts
- *Magnum Ride*: 100' Hatteras Motor Yacht, presented by Naples Nantucket Yacht Charters
- *In the Zone*: 110' Horizon Motor Yacht, presented by Fraser Yachts
- *Freedom*: 110' Horizon Motor Yacht, presented by Yacht Connexion
- *Invictus*: 123' Palmer Johnson Motor Yacht, presented by Worldwide Boat Silent Pool Distillers

Dinner was served under a tent with

glorious views of a Newport sunset. Guests were treated to a dynamic performance by the BGC Bratz, the Club's teen dance team, and a moving speech by Adequoyah Mathews, the Club's 2025 Youth of the Year—as well as Rhode Island Youth of the Year. Adequoyah shared her journey about how the Club has helped shape her growth, confidence, and future aspirations—earning her a standing ovation.

Kelley Coen, the Club's Chief Advancement Officer, emceed the event. "The Club has undergone many changes this year," she said, "including changes in leadership and the start of renovations at our 95 Church Street facility—and let's talk about the weather!" Referring to the beautiful evening, she added, "finally we have the best weather, and we can all remember last year's deluge of rain. Who would have thought we are enjoying this crisp dry air after the recent record-breaking heatwave!"

"Even with all of the changes we're experiencing," she continued, "we are grateful for the constants. Our donors showed up and provided the support that will help us continue fulfilling our mission and putting our kids and teens on the road to 'Great Futures.'"

For 69 years, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Newport County has been a cornerstone for area youth ages five to 18, offering programs and services that support academic success, healthy lifestyles, and character and leadership development. Serving

1,900 members and 2,000 individuals annually, the Club stays committed to its mission, to "inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens."

To learn more about the Club or how to support the Club's mission, visit bgcnewport.org.

BGC Vice-Chair Jerry Shafir (center) with Dwight and Susan Sippelle



Tim Burns (far left) and BGC Board Secretary Lorrie Burns (second from left) Alice Sheerin and BGC Board Member Patrick Sheerin, Dan Dileonardo, Donna Morvillo, Hilary Nimons and Charlie Morvillo.

