



» 2011 ANNUAL REPORT «



SAILING • BOATBUILDING • ADVENTURE



EXECUTIVE MESSAGE

Greetings!

2011 was a good year at the Bayfront Maritime Center. We expanded programming, saw substantial growth, are ready to launch our 89th boat, a San Francisco Pelican, and received national acclaim!

We are in our third year of providing the alternative education program for Erie School District students in collaboration with our partner of 14 years, the Sarah A. Reed Children's Center. The Bayfront Alternative Education Program is for high school students having great difficulty being successful in the traditional school environment.

This is important work. These students are in serious risk of not graduating from high school and suffering the lifelong consequences. The BAEP students are responding to the innovative, hands-on programming and successfully transitioning back to their home schools. These are great kids — not always easy kids but great kids — who need a non-traditional school setting to turn their lives around. We've seen miracles at BMC and we are proud of our students. One is in the US Coast Guard stationed in Kodiak, Alaska, one is working across the street at Donjon Shipbuilding & Repair LLC, one is studying archeology at Mercyhurst, one is heading to the Maine Maritime Academy, and one is working here at BMC and has passed the USCG Masters License exam.

Don't miss Erie's first Small Boat Festival, August 17-19, 2012. This will include our Third Annual Cardboard Boat Regatta on Saturday, August 18th, as well as the Inaugural Presque Isle Bay Messabout, a collection of hand-crafted traditional and contemporary boats from across the United States.

We need your help to continue offering these high quality programs in the community. You could be part of our story by becoming a BMC member, by volunteering, by sponsoring a program, a boat or a student, or by making a tax exempt charitable donation.

Please visit our campus to see firsthand the work we are doing with some of the hardest to reach youth.

Thank you for your support!
Rich Eisenberg



» WHAT WE DO:

Since 1998, the Bayfront Maritime Center (a community-based non-profit) has operated under the belief that access to Erie's greatest resource, Lake Erie, can be truly life-changing. Thank you for supporting BMC and making this vision become a reality. It is people like you who are improving the lives of area residents, primarily youth, and for that, we couldn't be more thankful.

BMC's programs maximize student achievement and foster a genuine love of learning. Kids are learning teamwork, perseverance and to trust themselves and others. It may seem like these kids are building boats, but the boats are really building these kids. When paired with tangible works skills, these lessons can bring individuals and entire communities out of poverty.

BMC is proud to say that from 2010-2011, approximately 655 youth were able to participate in BMC programming, and the numbers keep growing.

BMC's success is more than just the numbers. Every child has a story; here are just five from the 14,000+ youth who have walked through BMC's doors.



» BAYFRONT ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Bayfront Alternative Education Program increases high school graduation rates by providing a safe school for students who aren't achieving success in the Erie City High Schools. "We teach students that everyone makes mistakes, but we are all capable of rebounding and coming out stronger and wiser," said Dennis Williams, Site Supervisor of the Bayfront Alternative Education Program.

Sometimes, a second chance and a supportive environment are all a student needs to achieve success. The Bayfront Alternative Education Program (BAEP) strives to provide those two things to some of Erie's most at-risk youth.

The unprecedented partnership between the Sarah A. Reed Children's Center, the School District of the City of Erie, and the Bayfront Maritime Center makes the Bayfront Alternative Education Program unique in experience and strong in commitment to the well-being and success of each student. The program's academic component is a blend of traditional classroom and Web-based curricula. The boat shop incorporates Science, Technology, Engineering and Math into hands-on STEM-based projects.

Ajshanique Chandler, a BAEP student now in her senior year, came to the program from East High School during her junior year. "I was expelled for an entire year, and the worst part is that once you do something wrong, you can't take it back, no matter how much you want to," explained Ajshanique. She was faced with two options: to pursue her high school education at BAEP or to drop out of school.

She chose education.

Rick Scantlebury, Vice President of Program Services at the Sarah A. Reed Children's Center, explained that because BAEP is a certified Sanctuary® Model site, staff members are trained to ask "what happened to this student?" rather than "what's wrong with this student?" In addition to traditional academic subjects, BAEP offers a hands-on maritime class, individual and group counseling sessions and life skills classes. Students are also taught to use real world tools such as the CNC (Computer Numerical Controlled) router and 3D Maritime Training Simulator, thus gaining the confidence and skills for future success.

Shortly after her arrival at BAEP, Ajshanique took it upon herself to tutor an English as a Second Language student. "I just saw that she needed help,"



said Ajshanique. "We started from the beginning, because it's important to have strong fundamentals. She also wants to go to college, so I wanted to make sure she was prepared."

Ajshanique will graduate in the spring, so she worked with BAEP teachers and behavioral counselors to submit college applications. She has already been accepted with scholarships by two universities, and plans to study psychology. "I'm so excited to be attending college next fall. Being at BAEP helped me realize if you are fully committed to a difference then you are fully capable of change."

BAEP 2010-2011 Academic Year Program Statistics:

- > Of the 169 students enrolled in the BAEP program, 116 met or exceeded all established academic goals, and half of these students improved their grade point average (GPA) during the school year.



» ERIE ADAPTIVE SAILING EXPERIENCE

The Erie Adaptive Sailing Experience, EASE, is a sailing program for people with physical and mental challenges, as well as an opportunity for families to become involved in recreational activities. Access dinghies allow sailors with a variety of mobility challenges to sail. A Hoyer lift helps to easily move sailors from their wheelchairs into the boats. "EASE is staffed by volunteers dedicated to enhancing and empowering the lives of young people with disabilities in our community," said Bren and Kathy Lindell, directors of the EASE program.

Kevin Moczulski is a 23-year-old sailor with autism and OCD, but that doesn't stop him from spending every summer sailing with the EASE program on Presque Isle Bay. "Kevin would walk through fire to come sailing. He loves it more than anything," said Sue Moczulski, Kevin's mother.

EASE is the only adaptive sailing program in Pennsylvania. EASE helps build a sense of confidence because the young people aren't just getting rides on boats; the lessons are part of a standard curriculum designed to teach youth with disabilities how to sail independently.

Youth with disabilities face an array of social, physical and mobility challenges, but while sailing they can

forget about these problems and experience the liberating joy of being on the water. That simple gift has been transformational. "They are learning life lessons like patience and social interaction," said Sue. EASE helps sailors build self-esteem and develops a sense of community with the other sailors and their families.

The EASE program is entirely organized and run by a team of dedicated volunteers. It is designed to be a support system for sailors and their families. "The volunteers and parents understand special needs and have so much patience and kindness. No one judges you and they support you in any way they can. Knowing that these people can relate is so comforting," confided Sue.

"The EASE program is special and the volunteers are doing big things," said Sue, "everyone leaves with a smile on their face."

Goal for 2012: Buy another access dinghy to meet the needs of the program as it continues to grow.



2011 Summer Program Statistics:

- > 22 young sailors between the ages of 8 and 24 participated in the EASE Program
- > 28 volunteers donated 1,440+ hours to the program
- > Sailors with nine different types of physical and mental disabilities participated in EASE, including Autism, Intellectual Disability, Down's Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, ADD, Seizure Disorders, Behavior Disorders, Epilepsy and Asperger's

» BAYFRONT MIGRANT SUMMER PROGRAM

The Bayfront Migrant IU5/ESD Summer Program offers summer learning experiences to children of migrant workers and recent immigrants who are English as a Second Language learners. The program is a partnership between the PA Department of Education – Migrant Division, the Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit 5, the School District of the City of Erie, Edinboro University and the Bayfront Maritime Center and focuses on language arts.

"I will always remember going sailing and the feeling of getting the boat to move with the wind," reminisced Grissel Reyes, a current Mercyhurst College student and former participant. "I started the program very shy and distrustful," said Grissel, "but by helping the other kids build boats and sail, I became part of the team."

The Bayfront Migrant Summer Program focuses on helping students progress in their academics with instruction in English, math, computer skills, art and health. Unique learning experiences are offered, including water safety, sailing, paddling and navigation. This innovative approach to learning and 14 years of commitment were major components of the program being nationally recognized.

The PA Department of Education – Migrant Program, won the 2011 Excellence in Summer Learning Award from the National Summer Learning Association. BMC's efforts incorporating hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, STEM components, into the curriculum and programming played a significant role in winning this prestigious national honor. Dr. Lisa Ramirez, Director of Migrant Education from the Department of Education in Washington, D.C., attended the Migrant Summer Program presentation at the National Migrant Education Conference in Nashville. BMC was honored when she spoke for several minutes about the innovative programming in Erie to the entire conference – about 420 educators from across the United States! – in her closing remarks.

» CARDBOARD BOAT REGATTA

The Cardboard Boat Regatta is an annual event where participants build and race in boats made of cardboard, tape, glue and paint. "The event engages the community and provides on-the-water opportunities that encourage creativity and collaboration," said Amy Eisenberg, Executive Assistant at BMC.

One group of kids demonstrated just how creative, challenging and rewarding building and racing a cardboard boat can be. Through a collaboration between BMC, The Housing Authority City of Erie/YMCA Kids Club and the JFK Center, students aged 8-14, built two 8-foot long cardboard boats. The students helped with the construction, learned about physics, math and engineering and practiced paddling canoes before the race. For some of these students, it was their very first time on the water.

"It's sometimes hard enough to get the kids on the water at all, let alone in a cardboard box for a 300-yard race," said John Horan, Executive Director of the Housing Authority. "This event was a wonderful Erie-type thing – a huge self-confidence builder that helps the kids feel comfortable on the water."

The combination of a strong boat, knowledge of paddling and sheer determination helped one of their boats, "The Watermelon," to take second place for fastest time in the youth division. "These kids really learned about teamwork," shared Vjosa Loshaj, a summer intern at the Housing Authority City of Erie who helped the students build the boats. "I can just imagine the things that these kids will accomplish having learned leadership and perseverance this young!"

The 3rd annual Cardboard Boat Regatta will be August 18th, 2012, and will be a part of the Bayfront Maritime Center Inaugural Small Boat Festival, another Erie first!



2011 Summer Program Statistics:

- > 75 children attended the Bayfront Migrant Summer Program
- > More than 5 different languages were spoken
- > 7 countries were represented: Mexico, Puerto Rico, Tanzania, Somalia, El Salvador, Kenya and Nepal



2011 Event Statistics:

- > 33 boats competed in the Second Annual Cardboard Boat Regatta
- > 165 paddlers competed in the event
- > Over 1,000 spectators lined the waterfront to watch the spectacle
- > Categories included Most Creative, Crowd Favorite, Most Dramatic Sinking and Fastest Time in each age group: adult (18+), teen (12-18) and youth (under 12)

» PROJECT SAIL

Project SAIL is an after-school program where students (ages 15-18) participate in hands-on, maritime-based educational and vocational training. Project SAIL emphasizes the importance of job-related skills and behaviors, safety and responsibility.

Premton Latifi, an apprentice in Project SAIL (Successful Apprenticeships and Investments in Learning), had never sailed before he began the program. On his second day in the program, Premton was steering "Taco the Town," BMC's 34-foot racing catamaran, around Presque Isle Bay.

And sailing wasn't the only thing he learned.

Today's students are faced with a lack of opportunities to learn job skills and increased rates of juvenile crime after school. They need a fun, supportive place to grow. Project SAIL was designed specifically to fulfill these community needs. Funded by a generous grant from the TK Foundation, Project

January 2011 – December 2011 Program Statistics

- > 51 apprentices have completed the program;
- > 24 girls and 27 boys completed the program, indicating nearly equal gender interest in vocational development;
- > 7 different schools high schools and homeschools were represented;
- > Students from grades 9-12 attended the program;
- > Students receive a stipend for attendance;
- > BMC continues to develop partnerships with other nonprofits to provide the opportunity for 60 more students to complete the program by May 2012.

SAIL launched and accepted its first group of apprentices in January 2011.

At 16, Premton had no previous work experience and enrolled in Project SAIL to acquire job skills. Throughout the six-week program apprentices learn job skills through sailing, boat building, boat maintenance and navigation. Apprentices helped lay out and construct a new classroom to house BMC's expanding 3D Maritime Training Simulator Program.

"The foundation for developing job skills is knowing yourself, so that's where we start," says George Stabile, Program Director. One lesson on networking inspired Premton to search for his first job. "After hearing that most people get jobs through their contacts, I started asking around," said Premton, "my cousin told me about a job as a dishwasher, and I applied."

He got the job.

Premton is now employed in the kitchen of the Ambassador Conference and Banquet Center.

"Having a job is hard work," said Premton, "you have to work safely and quickly at the same time. It's difficult but the skills I learned in Project SAIL have shaped how I see the workforce. I'm young and I'm learning, so these lessons really made a difference and helped me get my first job."



BMC is currently seeking partnerships, funding, and resources to continue Project SAIL.

Learn more about BMC's additional programs on our website, bayfrontcenter.org. These include: Shipwreck Science, US Sailing Keelboat Certification, USCG Master's License Classes, USCG Unlimited Radar Watchstanding Course, Safe Boating Courses.

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Anonymous
H. F. Lenfest

Admiral (\$1,000 and up)

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Erie Community Foundation
– Junior League of
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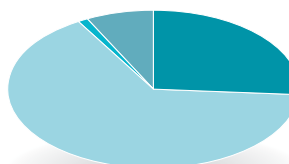
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Grants

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Appalachian Regional
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Erie Capacity Building
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TK Foundation Youth
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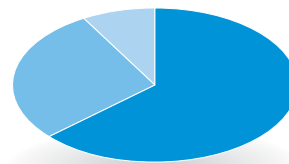
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Fiscal Year 2011



INCOME

Contributions, Gifts, Grants	106,000
Service Revenue	265,000
Fundraising	4,000
Other Income	30,000
Total	\$405,000



EXPENSES

Program Expenses	203,300
Administration	90,500
Fundraising	26,500
Total	\$320,300

» WHO WE ARE

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(2011-2012)
Sam Rigotti,
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Maritime Educator
George Stabile,
Project SAIL
Harold Rinn,
Maritime Educator
Nick Rinn,
Maritime Educator
Dennis Williams,
Project SAIL

Bayfront Alternative Education Program

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Vice President
of Program Services
Dennis Williams,
Site Supervisor
Kathy Bierley, Supervisor
of Behavioral Health
Rehabilitation Services
Brock Boutwell,
Clinical Instructor
Preeya Chintalapalli, Lead
Behavior Counselor
Jonah Davis,
Clinical Instructor
Amy Frazao, Lead
Clinical Instructor
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Clinical Instructor
Carly Kosinski,
Behavior Counselor
Shelley Patama,
Behavior Counselor
Erin Pepicello,
Behavior Counselor

BMC Summer Staff

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Jacob Malec,
Sailing Instructor
Mike Marsh, Computer
and IT Assistance
Vince Nientimp,
Sailing Instructor
John Stanford,
Maritime Educator
Pat Troester, AmeriCorps
VISTA (Summer 2011)

EASE Volunteers

Bren and Kathy Lindell
Sarah and Shawn Basile
Elizabeth Beckman
Cindy Boucher
Liz Daoust
Meg Eisert
Mike and Carol Hirsch
Mary Hoffman
Emily Kitcho
Sue Leopold
Rachel Pituch
Nicole Rupp
Aleasha Stainbrook
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Kyle and Cody Witchcoff
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Will Bloomstine
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Anna Lindell
Mike Eisert
John Kitcho
Jim Leopold

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Jerry and Judy Bien
Jim Edgett
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Allegheny College
ASB Students
Cathedral Preparatory
School Students
BAEP Students

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– Camp Connections
Boy Scout Troop 721
Edinboro University
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Erie Community Foundation
Erie Homes for Children
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Erie Maritime Museum
Erie Western PA Port Authority
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Intermediate Unit 5
Parade Street Community
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Sarah A. Reed Children's Center
School District – City of Erie
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For more information, please contact us:

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OUR MISSION

To design and implement unique, hands-on maritime themed educational, recreational and vocational opportunities for the community in a universally accessible waterfront facility.