



PROFILES IN GIVING

Celebrating funds that are making a difference in the county we call home.

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Boulders Benefits Fund

Ken Lehner established the Boulders Benefits Fund in 2011 as a way for the Rockland-based professional baseball team to give back to the community. Designed to meet a wide range of demonstrated needs, the fund has recognized and supported the work of many area non-profits who strive to enhance the quality of life for residents.



As Managing Partner and President of this Canadian-American league team, Ken looks for ways to raise awareness of the fund. For instance, the team's website highlights the important partnership the fund has with the Rockland Community Foundation via the 'community' link. This partnership enables the fund to identify important community issues and to provide grants to support them. The 50/50 scoreboard, implemented a year ago, is one way to fund these grants. As fans purchase raffle tickets during ballgames, the increasing balance of the 50/50 can be seen live on its dedicated scoreboard. Half of the balance is the prize for the winning ticketholder. The other half is donated to the Boulders Benefits Fund. With the help of RCF, the funds are then allocated to a local non-profit.

Serving the community is high on Ken's mind. The organization works closely with Hi Tor Animal Care Center, Rockland's only open-admission shelter. And for the past five years, the Boulders have partnered with Active International to host the annual Charity Challenge, an event in which local charities share with the audience details about their cause. While our area's non-profits have the common goal of enhancing the quality of life in our community, Ken believes there are creative ways to make this happen. On August 30th, an event at Provident Bank Park showcased charitable synergy at work as the Boulders hosted a family barbecue during a ballgame for over 1,500 families in need, while backpacks filled with school supplies were distributed to them by the Haverstraw Neighborhood Organization.

When asked about why the organization set up this fund, Ken says, "I have been involved in professional sports practically all my life, and I believe professional teams should be considered a community asset. Without the support of the community, we would not be successful, so we have to make sure we give back." Working with RCF has helped the Boulders achieve its charitable objectives. While working for the NHL in North Carolina, Ken experienced firsthand how starting a 501(c)(3) from scratch involved filing lots of paper work for the state, setting up a Board of Directors, and paying attention to many important details. "The Foundation has made it 'turnkey' for us," he continues. "They have taken away the burden of working on the administration of our fund, allowing us to focus on raising money and distributing it to the community."

RCF is proud to be a partner in the Rockland Boulders' charitable mission. For information on giving to this or to any of our other funds, visit www.rocklandgives.org.

Submitted by: Wanda Cardona