



**PAL News**  
**Holidays 2010**

*PAL News is a periodic newsletter of the Abington Police Athletic League to keep supporters informed of PAL program developments and activities.*

## **PAL Alumnus Tom Coffey Shares His Story**



**PAL alumnus Tom Coffey reminisces about his PAL days with Staff and Board Member Bob Salerno.**

In 2011, PAL will mark its 10<sup>th</sup> year serving the boys and girls of Abington Township. That is just the right amount of time to have alumni who want to share the value of Abington PAL in their lives. One alumnus who likes to check in at PAL periodically is Tom Coffey.

Tom was in junior high when he heard about PAL from his brother. He rounded up a group of friends to check it out, and soon they were weekend regulars. For at least three years, PAL was a significant part of Tom's social life. He notes, "I could tell from the beginning that

PAL had a good atmosphere for hanging out and playing sports. That was a time in my life when I could have easily been on the streets on weekend nights, doing stupid things, but PAL kept me entertained and positive. So once I discovered PAL, I was there all the time."

Tom especially loved roller hockey and would not think twice of walking several miles from Roslyn to Glenside, gear slung over his shoulder, to play with a newly formed PAL team. In fact, he became the team's captain. Those players formed such a bond that some of them play together to this day at the Northeast Racquet Club.

Tom also played basketball and baseball at PAL. PAL Staff and Board Member Bob Salerno, who has been with PAL since its inception, recalls, "Tom was one of the best baseball hitters I've ever seen. He could drive a ball straight to Easton Road!" Bob and Tom clearly hold a special place in each other's heart. Bob goes on to say, "Tom was such a good kid, and he exerted a positive influence on the other PAL kids."

From his perspective, Tom says, "Bob has been a very important person in my life; in fact, he is like a second father. He is so caring and down to earth. There was never anything we couldn't talk about. I would sometimes come to PAL and just need to get some thoughts off my mind. Bob would always listen and advise. Bob even helped me get my first job out of high school." Tom is currently working at a Mercedes dealership while attending Montgomery County Community College. He says he keeps his PAL roller hockey jersey in his closet as one of his treasured souvenirs.

## 8th Annual International Food Festival

# PAL Holds Most Successful Event to Date!

Despite continuing struggles in the economy, the community continued to support our young people generously with their time, talent, and treasure. The Abington Police Athletic League gratefully thanks all who participated in the 2010 International Food Festival to give Abington PAL its most successful event to date. More than \$100,000 was raised to continue providing

safe, supervised recreational and educational activities for the boys and girls of Abington Township.

PAL Board President Lew Klein emphasizes, "This amount will go a long way in helping us to continue current programs and develop new ones—all provided at no charge to the children so that no child is ever denied an opportunity due to inability to pay."

Celebrity guests, residents, businesses, restaurants, caterers, and

beverage purveyors were most generous with their provisions of irresistible spreads of food, program book ads, silent and live auction contributions, and various other kinds of support. Chief Bill Kelly notes, "This kind of community outpouring enables the Abington Police Department's #1 juvenile crime prevention organization to open its doors to our youth every Friday and Saturday night."



Top, left: Lee's Hoagie House of Abington, Rita's Water Ice of Rockledge, and Timber. Middle, left: Angelo's Cucina Italiano; Weinrich Bakery with John Weinrich, celebrity guest Joe Pellegrino, PAL President Lew Klein, and Chief Bill Kelly; and Festival Honoree Sgt. Dan Buckley with Miss MidState America Rachel Manlowe and Miss PA US Beauties Adrienne Dimino. Bottom, left: guests with Ofc. Freed; Annmarie's Cuisine, Inc., and Abington Animal Control Ofc. Griffith purchasing big-screen TV raffle tickets from PAL's K-9 in a cage.

# Halloween and Other Happenings Around Abington PAL



Any special event is a hit at Abington PAL. The Halloween party with an opportunity to come in costume and dance to music provided by a DJ was no exception.



Table games, "Rock Band," and basketball are weekend favorites.



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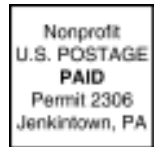
*For his dedication  
and hard work  
to the community*

We are proud to support  
Abington Pal  
and  
The 2010 International  
Food Festival

Abington PAL presents the full ad that Bryan Stuckert Plumbing intended for the 2010 International Food Festival Program book. Abington PAL is most grateful for the tremendous support it receives from the business community to help make possible the Abington Police Department's #1 juvenile crime prevention program.

# Police Athletic League

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**We're on the Web at**  
**[www.abingtonpal.org](http://www.abingtonpal.org)**  
**Email:**  
**[PAL@abington.org](mailto:PAL@abington.org)**

*Preventing crime and violence by providing safe, supervised places for the youth of Abington Township.*



## ***PAL Introduces Eight-Week Fall Knitting Class***



**PAL volunteer Jan Harris helps a couple of the girls who came to her knitting class to select yarn to make their scarves.**

The Abington Police Athletic League constantly endeavors to bring new opportunities to the young people of the community. A year ago, a PAL staff member observed Abing-

ton Police Department Community Service Officer and volunteer Jan Harris knitting and asked if she would like to share her talent at PAL. As a result, Jan volunteered to launch an eight-week knitting class this past fall.

Seven girls attended the first class and were given a bag with needles and practice yarn. Jan began by giving each girl needles with yarn that had already been cast onto them. This way, they could learn the easier first step of knitting a basic stitch. Then Jan worked with the girls individually to show them how to cast on, hold their yarn and needles correctly so that they did not drop stitches, and, of course, count their stitches. The goal was to create squares or rectangles to see how their handwork produced a result.

On the final night of the course, Jan took the girls to A.C. Moore Arts & Crafts to select yarn to make a scarf. Jan notes, "The girls were especially excited to go shopping for their very own yarn selection. They were also looking forward to taking home their project and being able to work on it throughout the week." Jan has pointed out to the girls how knitting, will enable them to create presents for friends and family as well as produce items that they can sell as handmade crafts.

The knitters will bring their handwork back to PAL in the new year to learn how to cast off and finish their scarves with fringe. Jan hopes to run another class in the spring. Interested boys and girls should contact PAL Site Director Melissa Gargan at 267-536-1072.