



Members of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Dorchester and Nantucket joined together for a photo after their game at Nantucket Disc Golf on August 5. This game was made possible through the collaboration of the Under the Tree Foundation, both Boys and Girls clubs, and Nantucket Disc Golf.

## Making a difference

### Student helps teens, one gift at a time

By GILLIAN SMITH, EDITOR  
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Seven years after founding a non-profit organization to help teens, one Duxbury resident is looking at expanding the reach of his program.

When Jonathan Woods was 12-years-old, he and his mother went on a holiday shopping trip armed with only an index card. On the card was the name of a 3-year-old girl who was in need of a Christmas gift. While shopping, Woods saw a major flaw in the gift-giving program: he wasn't sure if he would be able to get the girl a gift she would like and one that would be valuable to her.

"That sparked the question, 'What happens to kids when they are my age?'" Woods said. "So I said to my mom, 'When I'm rich and famous I'm going to start a foundation to help kids my age at Christmas.'"

Woods said his mom told him he didn't have to wait until he was rich and famous to help out other kids, so he started the Under The Tree Foundation. He connected with the Boys and Girls Club of Dorchester, which provided him with a

list of names of teens in need of a gift. The first list had 25 names. Since then, the organization has helped over 1,200 teens and raised over \$56,000.

"We have quite a few plans for our future now," Woods said.

With the success of the program, Woods has set some short term and long term goals for the organization, including programs during the non-holiday months. This August, he partnered up with the Boys and Girls Club of Nantucket to bring a group of teens from the Boys and Girls Club of Dorchester to the island to participate in a day of playing disc golf and team building.

"The program was very successful and is something we'd like to try to continue in the future," he said.

This year, Woods is most excited about an opportunity to expand the organization by starting a chapter on Nantucket.

"I would like to scale it to the point where we have chapters in several cities and helping several organizations," he said.

Woods credits his sis-

ter and parents for their help throughout the years. He said the foundation would not be as successful as it is today without the help of his family and those who provided him guidance.

"I really couldn't have imagined, seven years ago, that Under The Tree would be as successful as it is," he said. "I was taught to focus on my manageable goals and successes, and each goal that I have set I have been able to reach, which is really exciting."

The 20-year-old economics and computer science major at Boston College said he has made the foundation a priority.

"I have to find the time for it," he said. "This is the responsibility I undertook when I created the foundation. It's the most worthwhile thing I've done in life."

Woods said he has been "blessed" to work with the Boys and Girls Club of Dorchester.

"It brings out the spirit of generosity, selflessness and giving," he said. "It's so inspiring and keeps me going."

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## DHS Investigation continues

Continued from page 1

cident, nor did their parents.

"What they were doing in the weight room did not merit the severity of the alleged actions by a staff member," Tantillo said in the statement.

The district initiated an investigation by the Department of Children and Families, as is required by law.

Tantillo said the teacher/coach involved is on paid ad-

ministrative leave pending the outcome of the investigation.

The Duxbury Police Department is directing all inquiries to the superintendent, as it is not the only agency involved in the investigation.

Calls to the Department of Children and Families were not returned as of press time.

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Lucy Hutchinson, a native New Yorker, has for the past decade lived and worked in Duxbury and most recently in Marshfield. She has worked in a variety of mediums including printmaking, painting, ceramics and textile arts. The work in this exhibition combines many of these mediums in a uniquely personal and original way.

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