



BCMS
bayfront center for maritime studies

2007 annual report



BAYFRONT CENTER FOR MARITIME STUDIES

executive message


In 2007, we marked our 10-year anniversary and celebrated by filling our busy schedule with even more kids and activities. The Bayfront Center's hands-on programming sets consistently high standards for teaching participants the skills necessary to succeed and enabling them to make positive choices in their lives. We want to share our gratitude for all that has been given us and for all the assistance from individuals, organizations, supporters and partners who share our concern for the future of our youth and who are, in fact, making a difference.

—Rich Eisenberg, Executive Director

learning by doing

As a not-for-profit, community-based organization focused primarily on providing experiential maritime programming for area residents—mostly youth—BCMS provides an assortment of educational programs that support the school's efforts to maximize student achievement and personal development while encouraging them to become active participants in their own education. The BCMS experience is unique: we utilize our challenging and engaging local maritime environment to broaden horizons and build confidence, while reinforcing the important academic and life skills that are crucial to students' success.

BCMS uses maritime-related experiential learning to engage students and focus their attention on self development, both academically and socially. Summer months are spent sailing on Presque Isle Bay on one of the center's sailing vessels. Sailing is an exciting adventure sport and students are taught the importance of working together as a team. Winter months bring the classes indoors where students are engaged in the Boat Shop Experience. More than 10,000 students have worked together at BCMS to build 82 boats since its inception a decade ago. Projects range from building a basic Six Hour Canoe to the building of a replica of an Erie Boat—a 29-foot, turn-of-the-century sailing and fishing boat indigenous to our region.



“Much of what is learned in traditional classroom settings is received through our senses of sight (reading) and hearing (listening). Many students need to be actively involved in the learning process by using their hands and arms to learn. Opportunities like those provided at BCMS allow students to think critically while they develop problem-solving skills, social skills and communication skills. Students are so actively engaged in the learning process while using their hands to learn, they are surprised that we call it learning.”

— Ruth Gabig Auld, Ed.D.

Assistant Professor, Education Department,
Mercyhurst College



in the boat shop

Millcreek Township School District

In 2007, 188 Millcreek Township School District students spent hours in the BCMS boat shop building two Six Hour Canoes as well as building the construction jig, keelson, chines, transoms and knees for a San Francisco Pelican—a sturdy, self-rescuing, 12-foot sailboat. The students also helped restore several vessels, including cedar and canvas canoes. To do that, they learned how to steam bend frames and cut and fit planks. They sanded and varnished the inside of the boat before oiling the outside with linseed oil. The students stretched canvas on the outside of the hull and then painted the boat.

Vision and Blindness Resources

Twelve young people from Vision and Blindness Resources built a 15-foot Six Hour Canoe and launched it in the Central High School pool. This was the first known occasion of a group of vision-impaired children building a boat—ever. The students were a true inspiration to all who worked with them.

Sarah A. Reed Children's Center

Students from the Sarah A. Reed Children's Center are currently working to restore a 12-foot, 1947 Beetle Cat sailboat. This gaff-rigged classic is a perfect platform for learning basic shop skills while developing social skills, working as a team, and building their self-confidence.

Boy Scouts of America—Sea Scout: Ship #2

BCMS has formed a Sea Scout Troop: Ship #2, the first Sea Scout activity in Erie since the mid-1950s. The Scouts are learning to sail and help maintain the fleet, while also assisting with the restoration of a 34-foot cedar and canvas Old Town war canoe that hasn't been in the water for more than 30 years.

in the classroom

While much of our time with students is spent on the water and in the boat shop, we also work closely with them to encourage a lifelong love of boating and learning. All the Millcreek Township School District students and Bayfront Migrant IU5/ESD Summer Program students studied for and earned their Pennsylvania Basic Boating Safety Certificate. We engage them in learning by showing them how fun acquiring skills can be, such as when they learn basic chart plotting and navigation skills, both of which are hands-on and fun to learn.

In 2007, our students helped install the 35-foot tower needed to support the new wind turbine installed on campus after BCMS, in conjunction with the Erie Western PA Port Authority, was awarded a Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority grant. The electricity generated by our turbine helps lower our electric bill, but the turbine's primary function is educational. Each day our students see a practical, renewable energy source firsthand.



on the water

Bayfront Migrant IU5/ESD Summer Program

Our partnership with the Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit and the Erie School District helps us provide academic enrichment to children of migrant workers. Title I Math and Reading, Sailing, Canoeing, Basic Boating, Computer Assistance, English as a Second Language (ESL), Environmental Rediscoveries, GPS/Geocaching and Art, along with presentations on health, safety, careers and music, made for an informative and fun five-week program. Last year's educational field trips every Wednesday included a fishing derby at Presque Isle, tours of the Tom Ridge Environmental Center and visits to Mason Farms, the Erie Maritime Museum, Troyer Farms and Jerry Uht Park for an Erie Seawolves game.

Del Caryl Community Sailing School

Founded in 2002, our fleet of keelboats and a great team of sailing instructors make sailing lessons available to adults. Sailing enthusiasts from as far as Pittsburgh and Ohio earn their keelboat certification at our facility, the only U.S. Sailing-certified keelboat sailing school in the area.

Environmental Rediscoveries

This award-winning, hands-on environmental science program, a partnership between Pennsylvania Sea Grant and BCMS, is designed to engage and inspire students with our local aquatic environment. This year, 523 students from Millcreek Township School District, North Coast School, Luther Memorial Learning Center, Crawford Central School District and the Bayfront Migrant IU/ESD Summer Program were transformed into explorers and scientists as they set sail aboard the Friendship Sloop *Momentum* to conduct water tests and collect sediment and plankton samples. With the help of microscopes, the young scientists can identify and count the various micro- and macro-invertebrates that indicate water quality.

Erie Adaptive Sailing Experience (EASE)

EASE, a program designed to provide sailing and boating activities for children and adults with physical or developmental disabilities, continues to grow each year. In 2007, BCMS staff and 14 volunteers oversaw 66 participants from: The Achievement Center, Barber National Institute's Camp Connections and Camp Shamrock, Shriners Hospitals for Children, Erie Homes for Children and Adults, Vision and Blindness Resources, and Three Rivers Center for Independent Living. A grant from The Erie Community Foundation helped us use our larger vessels to accommodate these participants in addition to our two access dinghies.

Ice Boating

In March 2007, we had one week of ideal conditions for ice boating on Presque Isle Bay, and 60 Millcreek Township School District middle and high school students enjoyed the hands-on physics lesson of ice boating, sailing our Bellport Frost Fish, *Shave Ice*, a unique ice boat built entirely by BCMS students, and several other more traditional iceboats.

Momentum Charters

When not underway for environmental science activities, the Friendship Sloop *Momentum*, a USCG-inspected vessel, is available for charters on Presque Isle Bay. In 2007, we took several dozen groups on private outings.

"BCMS's unique approach to education and skill development through direct, hands-on participation is an effective strategy that is especially helpful to students who have difficulty learning in a traditional classroom setting. The positive changes in each student who participates in a BCMS project are truly remarkable."

— Rick Scantlebury
Vice President,
Sarah A. Reed Children's Center



program partners

Boy Scouts of America
 Department of Environmental Protection
 Erie Housing Authority
 Erie Maritime Museum
 Erie School District
 Erie Western Pennsylvania Port Authority
 Ron Esser, owner of Friendship Sloop *Momentum*
 The Junior League of Erie
 Lakeshore Towing
 Mercyhurst College
 Millcreek Township School District
 The Nonprofit Partnership
 Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit:
 serves 17 school districts in northwest Pennsylvania
 Penn State Erie, The Behrend College
 Pennsylvania Sea Grant
 Presque Isle State Park
 Regional Science Consortium
 Sarah A. Reed Children's Center

grants

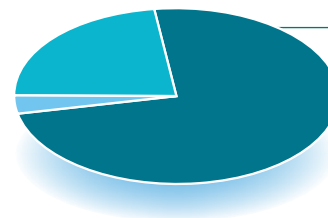
Coastal Zone Management Shipwreck Survey Grant
 The Erie Community Foundation
 Robert and Kathleen Frenzel Fund
 Highmark Foundation
 Douglas B. Nagle Adopt-A-Sailor Fund

donated goods and services

Boyd Bert	The McDonald Group
David Bierig	Perry Mill Supply
David Blake	Tim Sedney
Builders' Hardware	June Smith
CyberInk	William E. Walker
D & H Steel	
EMSCO	
Marilyn Ellis	
Erie Western Pennsylvania Port Authority	
Home Depot	
Lakeshore Towing and Eric Guerrein	

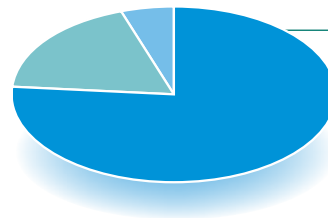
financial overview

Statement of Finances



Income

Program Services	\$181,614
Contributions, Gifts and Grants	56,567
Rent and Other	8,020
Total	\$246,201



Expenses

Program Services	\$165,349
Management and General	39,653
Fundraising	11,065
Total	\$216,067

Program Services

Achievement Center
 Barber National Institute
 Crawford School District
 Del Caryl Community Sailing School
 Erie Adaptive Sailing Experience
 Erie Homes for Children and Adults
 Luther Memorial Learning Center
 Millcreek Township School District
 Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit
 Penn State Erie, The Behrend College
 Sarah A. Reed Children's Center
 Vision and Blindness Resources



who we are

Board of Directors

David Blake, President
Aubrey Dillon, Vice President
Bren Lindell, Secretary
Eric Guerrein, Treasurer
Dr. Robert Allshouse
William Casey
Dr. Joe Cuzzola
Richard Eisenberg
Greg Martin

BCMS Staff

Richard Eisenberg, Executive Director
William Sabatini, Maritime Educator
Amy Eisenberg, Administrative Assistant
Peter Marsh, Maritime Educator
John Stanford, Maritime Educator
Ivan Eisenberg, Sailing Instructor
Michael Marsh, Sailing Instructor
Kyle Rectenwald, Sailing Instructor
Mark Schreckengost, Maritime Educator
Charles Gruelich, Sailing Instructor

Boat Shop Volunteers

John Cerula
Paul Jenkins
Paul Knuth
Gene Polaski

EASE Volunteers

Sarah Basille
Shawn Basille
Emily Boucher
Keith Branton
Carol Hirsch
Michael Hirsch
John Kitcho
Anna Lindell
Bren Lindell
Kathy Lindell
Mark Schaaf
Aleasha Stainbrook
Kyle Witchoff

Sailing Volunteers

Brian Altimier
Jeff Beltz
Dave Bennett
Jim McEnry
Michael Richardson
Nick Rinn

Computer and Information Technology Assistance

Ross Ardillo

our mission

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



Bayfront Center for Maritime Studies
40 Holland Street • Erie, PA 16507
814-456-4077
www.bayfrontcenter.org
info@bayfrontcenter.org