

# PRIORITIES

Nancy Smith, Editor

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## HAPPY NEWYEAR!

### Danny Gimpel and the Staff of Rising Stars Youth Foundation

As we enter 2010, the Rising Stars Staff feels rejuvenated and filled with energy, excitement, and enthusiasm about our programs for the New Year. We thank each of you for volunteering your time, ideas, and donations to make certain Rising Stars continues to help children develop the life skills necessary to be successful in life.

My name is Danny Gimpel, and I am the National Director of Operations for Rising Stars Youth Foundation. I have worked for the foundation for over 15 years and have committed myself to ensuring that Rising Stars continues to teach youth the life skills, values, discipline, self confidence, and respect which will assist them in becoming responsible contributors to our society. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you what Rising Stars has in place for 2010 to enhance its total educational and athletic programming for our youth.

We have partnered with the NY Knicks and will co-sponsor a Knicks/Rising Stars clinic in February and sponsor a Rising Stars clinic at Madison Square Garden in March. This summer we will begin a yearly partnership with Long Island Lutheran High School. LuHi will become our new home base for our workshops, clinics, educational support, and athletic training programs. Our first-ever Rising Stars girls 14 and under team is scheduled to hold

tryouts in late March and begin playing competitive games in the spring. Our annual fund raising event will be held at the New York Athletic Club in Manhattan on April 27, 2010. And last, but not least, our CEO, Jay Williams, has a new place on the web to get additional information, registration forms, and to find out about upcoming Rising Stars events. Check out [www.jaywillrisingstars.org](http://www.jaywillrisingstars.org) and e-mail our staff any questions you may have about Rising Stars.

**“I HOPE YOU WILL DECIDE TO JOIN JAY, THE RISING STARS STAFF, AND ME IN MAKING RISING STARS YOUTH FOUNDATION YOUR CHARITY OF CHOICE IN 2010.”**

Rising Stars philosophy supports the theory that the skills learned in playing basketball are in direct correlation to those skills needed to be successful in school and in life. I hope you will decide to join Jay, the Rising Stars Staff, and me in making Rising Stars Youth Foundation your “Charity of Choice” in 2010.

Sincerely,  
Danny Gimpel

#### Governing Officers

Jim Davis, President  
Jason Williams, CEO  
Paul Savramis, Founder/National Executive Director  
Danny Gimpel, National Director of Operations  
Althea Bowman Williams, National Director of Public Relations/  
Gifting

#### Contact Rising Stars

Rising Stars Inc.  
P.O. Box 1596  
Flushing, New York 11354

#### Email Rising Stars

[jay@jaywillrisingstars.org](mailto:jay@jaywillrisingstars.org)  
[althea@jaywillrisingstars.org](mailto:althea@jaywillrisingstars.org)  
[paul@jaywillrisingstars.org](mailto:paul@jaywillrisingstars.org)  
[danny@jaywillrisingstars.org](mailto:danny@jaywillrisingstars.org)



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## WHAT'S UP WITH JAY WILL

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With the holidays now behind us, we are moving ahead with our goals and objectives for 2010. To make certain that each of you can quickly obtain information on Rising Stars activities, I am pleased to introduce our newest spot on the internet. Please visit [www.jaywillrisingstars.org](http://www.jaywillrisingstars.org) to read our quarterly newsletter entitled "PRIORITIES", check out our educational programs, and register to participate in our Rising Stars basketball clinics and camps. There is contact information for our officers available there as well.

If you are interested in signing up to be a Rising Stars participant, feel free to send an e-mail to Danny Gimpel who will be happy to discuss the qualifications for participation in Rising Stars.

I know that you are all busy with academics, school activities, and extracurricular sports programs. If you get a minute, watch me on ESPN in my role as a college basketball sports analyst. You can also go to [ESPN.com](http://ESPN.com) to read my blogs. Remember to work hard and stay focused in all you do!

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## RISING STARS SUCCESS BEGINS WITH YOU

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Your donations, sponsorship and contributions – whether it be your time, ideas, expertise- and yes, even your money, is necessary as we move ahead. Your gifts will help Rising Stars to achieve the following goals:

- ★ Increase scholarship donations for Rising Stars students
- ★ Continue promotional events, i.e. clinics and camps
- ★ Increase Rising Stars support base
- ★ Reestablish and upgrade our educational programs to ensure our kids continue to use their basketball/educational skills competitively throughout their lives.
- ★ Offset the costs of facilities rentals and staffing

Please contact Althea Williams at [althea@jaywillrisingstars.org](mailto:althea@jaywillrisingstars.org) or Paul Savramis at [paul@jaywillrisingstars.org](mailto:paul@jaywillrisingstars.org) for further information. Your tax deductible donations, made payable to Rising Stars Youth Foundation can be mailed directly to Rising Stars Youth Foundation, P.O. Box 1596, Flushing, NY 11354.

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## GRASSROOTS BASKETBALL FRONT

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### NOTABLE RISING STARS PARTICIPANTS:

- ★ Evan Conti is leading his high school team Holy Cross in scoring and rebounds.
- ★ Andrew Fellus was moved up to Varsity as a freshman at Herricks High School.
- ★ Jashanti Allen, an 8th grade student at Long Island Lutheran, is playing JV .
- ★ Matt Quinn is leading Syosset High School with a winning record while stacking the stat sheets with double doubles in scoring, rebounds, blocks, and assists.
- ★ Josh Feshback is leading Friends Academy as a sophomore in assists and steals.
- ★ Michael Florin is starting point guard at undefeated Long Island Lutheran averaging 14 points a game.
- ★ Playing along with Mike is sophomore Ryan Denicola at the center position leading the team in rebounds.
- ★ Chris Dorgler, a junior at Arch Bishop Molloy is leading his team in rebounds @ 15 per game.
- ★ Tom Botsaris is leading Holy Trinity in assists at the point guard position.
- ★ Jason Oder who plays with Tom at Holy Trinity is giving great support off the bench.

We are proud of all our Rising Stars players and coaches for their achievements. The dedication of these coaches is evident by how well these boys are doing. Congratulations!



## BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

### RISING STARS BOYS

Our Rising Stars coaches are currently working with the boys' grassroots basketball programs under the direction of Mr. Danny Gimpel. Our teams are comprised of two 4th grade, two 5th grade, one 6th grade, three 7th grade, and two 8th grade teams. All teams are participating and competing in winter leagues. If you are interested in getting involved with our grassroots youth basketball programs, please contact the respective coach(es) named below:

Coach	Grades	Email
Dan Gimpel	Head Coach	danny@jaywillrisingstars.org
Tom Hughes	4th-8th	dmiddie4@optonline.net
Brian Dunphy	6th-9th	bdunphy22@aol.com

For information regarding tryout dates, please contact Mr. Danny Gimpel.

### RISING STARS GIRLS

Rising Stars is happy to announce that it will formally begin a Rising Stars girls' basketball program in the spring of 2010. The team will start by fielding a 14 year old and under team and will be coached by Chuck Everson. Coach Chuck has been with Rising Stars Youth Foundation for many years and is recognized as one of Rising Stars most outstanding coaches. Many of the girls who have expressed an interest in trying out for the team have participated in Rising Stars' clinic programs. The team colors will be black and Duke blue in honor of Jay Williams. Tryouts are scheduled for late March at Riverbank State Park in Manhattan. For more information please contact Coach Chuck Everson: cweverson@sunocoinc.com

### WE'RE GROWING FAST - SPONSOR A RISING STARS CLINIC OR CAMP

The foundation of our basketball clinics and camps, which is Rising Stars' educational and value-based philosophy, has stirred a great deal of interest in our program. If you would like to sponsor a Rising Stars clinic/camp whether as an organization, business, or personally please contact us. We are more than happy to work with you. Our clinics are designed to meet the needs of the youth in all communities - and we are not just limited to the tri-state area. Take a look at our second edition of PRIORITIES to see how successful our Bridging Communities Clinic was in Durham, NC September 26, 2009. Rising Stars partnered with Duke and NCCU and ran one of our best ever youth clinics to unite the youth from both communities. We recently held a clinic in West Orange, New Jersey for the Mountain Top Basketball League and received rave reviews! Please contact Danny Gimpel - danny@jaywillrisingstars.org, Althea Williams - althea@jaywillrisingstars.org, or Mr. Dresden Baluyot, our Assistant Public Relations and Gifting Coordinator at dgbaluyot@gmail.com.

## RISING STARS SPOTLIGHT

### RISING STARS NEW HOME BASE FOR LONG ISLAND, QUEENS, AND MANHATTAN

Effective June 1, 2010, Rising Stars Youth Foundation will officially partner with Long Island Lutheran High School to establish a home base for all educational and basketball programs. The school is located at 131 Brookville Road, Brookville, NY 11545.

Dr. David Hahn, Headmaster of LuHi helped to spearhead the partnership between Rising Stars and LuHi because the Rising Stars Youth Foundation's educational and Value-based approach to training young basketball players is insinc with the school's educational and sports philosophy. Special thanks to Mr. Ed Parry, Director of LuHi's summer programs for his belief in our foundation and his support in building this relationship.



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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### **NY KNICKS AND RISING STARS JOINING FORCES:**

Rising Stars & the New York Knicks proudly announce a joint effort to promote sports and education in the community. Rising Stars and the New York Knicks will be conducting a series of grass roots clinics. The clinics will feature outstanding instructional basketball offered through a platform that emphasizes education and positive family and social values - utilizing basketball to work with our children today for a better future tomorrow.

NY Knicks clinics in your area:

#### **February 19, 2010**

Rising Stars and NY Knicks Youth Basketball Clinic, at the Knicks practice facility in Terrytown, NY from 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm. Knick give-a-ways include tickets for their March 6th game vs. the Nets. For further information contact Chris Sloan at 212.465.4103 or Danny Gimpel at 917.202.2533 or visit [www.jaywillrisingstars.org](http://www.jaywillrisingstars.org) for additional information.

#### **March 21, 2010**

Rising Stars Youth Clinic at Madison Square Garden from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. Boys and girls interested in participating should contact Danny Gimpel at 917.202.2533. Enrollment is limited to 40 youth. Sign up today!

### **RISING STARS ANNUAL 2010 FUNDRAISING DINNER**

#### **April 27, 2010**

Rising Stars Annual Fund Raising Event at The New York Athletic Club, 180 Central Park South, NYC, NY 10019-1562, from 6:00 pm - 9:30 pm. Save the Date! Interested in receiving additional information about the event? Send your email address to Althea, Danny or Paul and we will send you a personalized invitation. Trust us...this will be the event of the year!