Dear Friends,

Everything we do at Community Rowing, we do because we believe it changes lives. People come to us to stay healthy, to enjoy the river, to make friends and before they leave everyone understands that CRI does so much more. As we push off from the dock on any given morning, we know what it is going to take – trust, commitment to your boatmates, hard work, leadership. Rowing renews our commitment to the best part of ourselves with every stroke, and CRI Rowers from the Charles to Baghdad to New Bedford cherish this experience on a daily basis.

Thank you for your investment in our community. Above all, thank you for your time and care – CRI continues to pull together and we generated major changes in Boston this year:

- More than 5,000 people dipped their oar in the water from CRI this year, and more than 2,000 of them were regular CRI members;
- By the end of this year, more than 1,500 middle school students in the Boston Public Schools will have had the opportunity to try the sport, either in their school on an erg or on the water;
- Our competitive programs continue to attract the best coaches and athletes from all over the Northeast;
- Our Military Rowing Program is growing by leaps and bounds, delivering the benefits of connection and fitness to the people who have served our country;
- Our Adaptive Program hit many milestones this year – 160 adaptive rowers in one week, multiple CRASH-B World Champions, and a new level of partnership with other CRI programs;
- More than 1,000 volunteers played a critical role in delivering community programming at CRI this year;
- The Institute for Rowing Leadership coach education program is generating incredible results for everyone in our community, and especially for the level of coaching that we can deliver here in Boston.

We have an inspiring building, a fantastic Board, an amazing group of volunteers and an indefatigable staff. It is clear that together we do make a real difference for thousands of people in our community.

Now is the time to renew the commitment to the best part of ourselves – time, energy, passion, expertise, and financial resources to continue making a difference in the lives of others.

Thank you for your generosity, for making this transformative sport available to others. Here is to another safe, productive, and exciting year at CRI.

Sincerely,

Bruce H. Smith
Executive Director

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**A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
MISSION AND CORE VALUES

Mission
Community Rowing, Inc. enriches the Greater Boston community through its comprehensive rowing opportunities for individuals. CRI promotes diversity in the sport of rowing through our programs which introduce avenues for athletic development and personal growth for both youth and adults. CRI’s programs introduce new rowers to the sport, offer training for competitive rowers, and support the under-represented within rowing.

Core Values
We believe that rowing offers good health and fresh air, but in its best and highest expression, our sport builds essential relationships between people from all walks of life that would not be possible without the shared discipline of shells, oars and water.

Changing lives...
Rowing makes it possible.
Community makes it real.

Community Rowing - Rowing For All!
Through Adaptive, Veterans Rowing, and Let’s Row Boston, CRI promotes diversity in the sport of rowing and ensures access for all. **CRI was proud to reach over 1,000 individuals this past year in free programs for underserved populations.**

### Adaptive Rowing

"**He has so much confidence in himself. I can’t tell you how much I appreciate this program.**“ - Youth adaptive rower parent

The 2011 season marked our third year of offering year-round recreational and competitive rowing opportunities for youth and adults with mental and/or physical disabilities. For the second year in a row, CRI adaptive rowers participated in two of the rowing world’s most prominent events: the CRASH-B Sprints, and the Head of the Charles Regatta.

In partnership with the Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, CRI successfully implemented the Functional Electrical Stimulation (FES) Program for spinal cord injury patients, adding two trained staff and installing indoor FES equipment at the boathouse. The FES Program allows paraplegic rowers to use their legs and build muscle mass with the help of a modified rowing machine.

"**Adaptive rowing is the first extracurricular activity that my son picked up easily and where he received legitimate, positive feedback and was propelled to keep going... it’s something he’s good at, and that’s not been a very familiar experience for him.**“ - Mother of CRI youth adaptive rower

### Veterans Rowing

"**I am so grateful for CRI reaching out to us – to me. It means so much and makes me feel a part of something.**“ - Female Veteran

Close to 100 disabled Veterans and members of the armed forces found their “second home” at CRI in 2011.

The boathouse has become a gateway to social connection, fitness, safety, independence, competition, and confidence. Several CRI Veteran participants struggling with PTSD have said that coming to the boathouse has helped them to focus and to find meaning in work and in their lives.

Highlights in 2011 included:
- a March Veterans Row Kickoff event attended by Massachusetts Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Coleman Nee;
- the first annual Veterans Day Row at the CRI boathouse;
Rowing for All

- CRI Veteran participant Bryan Fuller committed to a 2012 TransAtlantic Row to raise awareness for the CRI Veterans program; and,
- for the first time, a CRI Veterans double participated in the Head of the Charles Regatta.

“When you leave military service, this rowing program is a lifeline for having some structure and purpose in your life again. You show up on time, your teammates are counting on you. It brought some meaning back to me, and for guys like me coming back, that is huge.” - Bryan Fuller

“Looking at the pictures from the Veterans Day row pulled at my heartstrings. I have butterflies in my stomach thinking about how it felt to cruise along the river...”
- Veteran from Bedford, MA

Let’s Row Boston

“G-Row has changed my life! It taught me how to row, but more importantly, it equipped me with skills, determination, and mindset to work hard, not give up, and be successful as well as overcome obstacles. It supported me and my dreams and continues to do so.”
- G-Row graduate now completing her Masters Degree in School Counseling at UMass.

Fourteen years ago, G-Row Boston was established to foster girls’ growth, strength, and ability to take on future challenges through the sport of rowing.

As the program expanded to include a boys program and a middle school fitness component, the broader initiative of Let’s Row Boston was launched, with a goal to make rowing a mainstream opportunity for all Boston Public School youth.

Let’s Row Boston has four components: a Middle School Indoor Rowing League designed to combat obesity and bring about life-changing behaviors; Row Boston (G-Row & Boys Row) high school teams that build relationships and support academics throughout the entire school year; and a new “Coach Academy” to train youth leaders from the community as junior coaches and mentors for our middle school rowers.

With the launch last year of Boys Row Boston and the introduction of the Middle School Indoor Rowing League this winter, CRI will reach over 1,000 Boston Public School youth in the coming year.
Youth Competitive Rowing

With a reputation for excellence and outstanding accomplishments, CRI is the place to learn to row in Boston. A shining example of this fact is the Youth Competitive Rowing Program. Each season brings a new challenge:

- *spring* is our primary racing season with races most weekends;
- during the *summer*, we focus on travel to two International regattas;
- *fall* is for the most prominent and prestigious Head of the Charles Regatta;
- *winter* brings an indoor rowing-specific training regimen.

Varsity Competitive Girls

The girls kept their edge in 2011 beginning at the New England Regionals which resulted in berths at Youth Nationals and three medals. In the fall, the team medaled in the Head of the Charles and sent two girls to Junior Speed orders.

Other team highlights on the international stage include earning the right to represent the USA in two events at the CanAmMex Regatta in Welland, Ontario; the first time a club has ever been able to accomplish this impressive feat! The squad was also well represented at Canadian Henley where they came home with four gold medals.

Novice Competitive Girls

The 2011 Novice Girls program had more girls in it than ever before. Highlights include a 2nd place finish at the Lowell Invitational Regatta, and a 3rd place finish at the US Northeast Junior Districts where they were a mere 3 seconds out of first place. In the fall, the girls travelled to Sarasota, NY for the Head of the Fish Regatta and netted a 2nd, 3rd and 9th finish in a 23-boat field. Coach Bode noted that the overall culture of the team is incredibly positive, making his job a joy.

Varsity Competitive Boys

More boys than ever before rowed for CRI in 2011. For the first time in CRI history, we won the overall team points trophy at US Club Nationals. The boys also made the Grand Final at the Youth Nationals in Oak Ridge, TN and competing at the Canadian Henley.

Novice Competitive Boys

The 2011 fall season marked the most successful fall for Novice boys since the program began. The retention rate from fall to spring was the best that the program has seen. The squad set the tone for the spring season by winning Regionals and at the Novice Challenge (Lowell), the CRI Novice Boys 8+ clocked the fastest time of the day. In the fall, the Saratoga Invitational Regatta brought a first place finish and The Head of the Fish Regatta brought home substantial fish head hardware for the CRI trophy case!
Rowing for All

Crew League and Summer Programs

More than 500 happy youth from 20 area schools participated in CRI summer programs last year. Structured mainly as learn-to-row programs, the days were filled with games in the field, erg games, and on-the-water rowing. At the end of program week, youth participated in Race Day with barge races and for some youth, races in the eights or singles – topped off with a pizza party and water balloon toss. When schedules allow, some youth go on to join CRI competitive teams. One of the girls from last year’s summer program is now a strong attribute to the varsity team!

Adult Rowing Programs – Sculling and Sweeps

In 2011, CRI continued to offer a multitude of sculling and sweep courses that ensured that all levels of rowing, from recreational to competitive were represented and that athletes had a clear path to improve their skills. CRI athletes were able to refine and renew their skills, gain confidence on the river, and become effective ambassadors of CRI.

Sculling & Sweep programs include: Sculling I, II, III and IV, Logbook Sculling, Intro-to-Rowing, Novice Sweeps, Sweeps 1 and 2, Women’s and Men’s Competitive Teams.

CRI Competitive Programs traveled throughout the year with showings at Philadelphia’s Independence Day Regatta, the Inaugural Blue Heron Regatta, the Derby Sweeps and Sculls Regatta, USRowing Master’s Nationals, Canadian Henley Masters and a host of other regional regattas.

The women’s comp team sent 12 athletes to compete in 16 events at USRowing Masters National Championships (Oklahoma City, OK) and the men sent a small contingent consisting of five rowers and one coxswain. Boats also raced at the Head of the Charles Regatta where CRI came out with 5 guaranteed entries for 2012 – no small feat in this highly competitive (but immensely fun) regatta.

Institute for Rowing Leadership

CRI established the Institute for Rowing Leadership (IRL) in 2011 to provide a vehicle for the growth of knowledge in the sport of rowing. The IRL makes CRI a destination for excellence and innovation – with an explicit focus on sharing information and research, for the first time coaches can stand on the shoulders of others. In our first year, we have developed innovative new approaches to teaching, outreach and coaching development that are already paying off for our community at every level.

“I didn’t realize how much I could learn in just a year with guidance from world class instructors – it has transformed my approach to coaching and I feel well prepared to follow my dream of coaching at the highest level.” - IRL Fellow Judith Vogel
November 2010
Iraqi Rower, Haimer Rashad, who trained at CRI with Bruce Smith in the fall won his country’s first medal in the 2010 Asian Games.

December 2010
CRI Annual Meeting & Holiday Celebration

January 2011
CRI’s Virtual Meters Challenge Begins
Adaptive Indoor Rowing Challenge
7th Annual G-Row Ergathon

February 2011
IRL “What Works” Summit Coaching Conference

April 2011
CRI Launch Rodeo
Veterans Rowing Kickoff
with MA Secretary of Veteran Affairs, Coleman Nee
Competitive Youth Ergathon – the Youth Teams raised over $31K in this event, making it CRI’s most successful Ergathon to date!

June 2011
WBUR Festival – The beautiful, sunny day introduced over 500 WBUR listeners to the sport of rowing while thousands of visitors lined the bank of the river to listen to live music, have some great food & family fun.
Institute for Rowing Leadership kicks off its inaugural year with 8 Fellows enrolled.
Celebration of Women’s Rowing

July 2011
CRI Cookout

September 2011
2nd Annual Rumble on the River with more than 533 people on the water.

October 2011
Coaches Appreciation Night celebrated Ethan Curran’s 20 years of coaching at CRI
Head of the Charles Regatta
Schedule of Operations for Community Rowing, Inc.
Year Ended October 31, 2011

Operations

Revenues

Donations $199,929
Outreach Grants, Special Events & Non-cash 595,107
Program Fees & Dues 2,191,962
Storage Fees & Dues 177,966
Other Revenue 71,012
Total Revenue and Support $3,058,378

Expenses

Programs $1,732,709
General & Administration 724,762
Fundraising and Grants 260,543
Total Cash Expenses $2,718,014

Income (Loss) from Operations $478,741
Depreciation (519,636)
Equipment Purchase (110,614)
Total Income (Loss) ($289,886)

Non-Operating Income

Boston College Building Payment $50,004
Interest Income 1,316
Gain on Sale of Property and Equipment 10,049
Total Non-Operating Revenue $59,501

Change in Net Assets (230,385)
Net Assets, Beginning of Year 13,330,742
Net Assets, End of Year $13,100,357

For complete audited financial statements please contact the Development Department at 617-779-8264.
FY2011 Community Rowing Contributors

*A special thank you to our contributors who made pledge payments this year, and are listed in previous Annual Reports.

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Community Rowing, Inc. (CRI) was founded in 1985, by a group of Olympic and national team rowers who wanted to widen the circle of rowing and secure public access for rowing on the Charles River. Today, CRI is a thriving non-profit with 30 programs, and a fleet of over 75 sweep and sculling shells. With more than 3,000 participants, CRI is the largest and most successful community-access rowing facility in the United States.