From the President

Greetings-

This year we celebrated 30 years of changing lives through the sport of rowing. To capture this milestone, we’re thrilled to share the “Faces of CRI” photography project by featuring images from our thriving community. The hard work, passion and joy of the sport shine through in their portraits.

2015 was an unprecedented year at CRI. We celebrated the arrival of 91 new shells to provide every rower in our community access to equal, high quality equipment. Community Rowing is stronger than ever and we are proud to have logged over 375,000 hours of rowing in 2015!

Our Middle School Indoor Rowing Program expanded into nine new Boston Public Schools and our Para Rowing Program also succeeded in creating the first ever Inclusion event at the ECAC Championship in Worcester. Our Military Program also hosted 100 fellow veterans, family members, and friends at the USO (United Service Organizations) Learn to Row Event, the largest Military Learn to Row to date!

Our Elite Para and National Team Development Groups also had hugely successful years. The LTA 4+ earned a silver medal at World Championships, qualifying the event for the Paralympics in Rio. The Men’s Lightweight Eight earned a bronze at Worlds. These athletes play a critical role in supporting and advocating for all of our programs here at CRI.

Community Rowing has set the bar for innovation in the sport. New programming and initiatives have become the norm at the Harry Parker Boathouse. We have plans to offer programs on the Upper Charles River, we continue to improve on and build wakeless launches, and we share our expertise with others. As we grow, safety, quality and community are always our top priorities.

In our busy world, it is an honor to serve as President of an organization that enables people to unplug and connect through rowing. I’m thrilled to be celebrating the achievements of our community but I know that none of this would be possible without the extraordinary time and talent of our many volunteers. You make CRI great. Thank you!

Lila McCain
President
From the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Wow. That’s about all I can say. Rowing at CRI is possibly the MOST FUN that an American can have – the combination of water and exercise and friends; being a part of one of the most inspiring communities I have ever experienced. 2015 arrived in a blizzard and ended with a perfect fall—what made it extraordinary at CRI was “cross programming” at the Harry Parker Boathouse. Some examples: the first ever Inclusion Race at the collegiate ECAC championship, ushering in competitive opportunities for athletes with and without disabilities to compete together, in the same crew. A 14 year old novice coxswain, recovering from cancer, steering a boat down the course at Senior National Team Trials in June. A septuagenarian rower jumping into a corporate team-building event for the final 500m sprint in August. Rowing is coming back to life at a critical time in the United States, and we are working very hard to ensure that it flourishes in 2016. Our city, our state and our country desperately need the values that our sport embodies: cooperation, personal challenge, physical health.

Thank you for making CRI come alive. The future could not be more exciting!

Bruce Smith
Executive Director

CRI Timeline

1985 Community Rowing, Inc. begins operating at Weld Boathouse with Howie Schmuck, member #1.
1987 The “shed” is designed by Sherry Proctor and constructed. The original design called for the Proctor Boathouse to be disassembled annually but it remained standing until 2012.
1989 Seasonal use of the Daly Rink begins.
1998 The G-Row program begins under the vision of Olympic gold medalist Holly Metcalf.
2008 Community Rowing, Inc. moves into a permanent home with the completion of the Harry Parker Boathouse.

On the Water: John Sisk and his coaching assistant, famed Cairn Terrier “Coxie”, provide feedback from the launch.

Let’s Row: Ellen Minzner, Director of Outreach, raises the trophy oar for the winning team at the Middle School Indoor Rowing Championship where Boston area middle school students convene at CRI for a day of competition, health, and fun!

Competitive Programs: Men’s Novice Coach, Karl Harshe, oversees a spring practice on the Charles.

FACES OF CRI

Ellen Minzner, Director of Outreach, raises the trophy oar for the winning team at the Middle School Indoor Rowing Championship where Boston area middle school students convene at CRI for a day of competition, health, and fun!
CRI: 30 years of changing the world.

Rowing changes lives and for our 30th anniversary we’re pleased to be able to share images from the “Faces of CRI” photography project by Damian Strohmeyer depicting that very impact. Faces of CRI features members of the community in their rowing environment and the project explores a diverse group of subjects, inviting you to look at the world through their portraits. The photographs celebrate some of the many greatly talented people in the CRI community.

At CRI, we are dedicated to fostering a community that is both welcoming and supportive. Under the banner of “Rowing for All” we make rowing accessible without regard to individual ability, background, or experience. We seek to raise the standard of rowing programs through internal excellence, and to share our knowledge and expertise with others for the advancement of the sport at all levels.

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 over 30 programs, and a fleet of over 180 sweep and sculling shells. With more than 7,000 participants, CRI is the largest and most successful community-access rowing facility in the United States.

Para Rowing

CRI boasts the strongest and broadest offering of rowing programs for people with disabilities. Elevated in 2015 to a Gold Level USOC Paralympic Sport Club, CRI served over 250 people with disabilities in recreational, development, and competitive para programs. CRI introduced an adaptive component to the Middle School Indoor Rowing Program in the Boston Public Schools, and for the first time had events for students with disabilities at the Boston Youth Indoor Rowing Championship. CRI coaches and volunteers helped support the adoption of Inclusion Rowing, where crews comprised of athletes both with and without disabilities compete in the same boat, at local and regional regattas including the Head of the Charles, the ECAC National Collegiate Invitational Regatta, and CRI’s Fall Classic. CRI is paving the way for opportunities for athletes with intellectual disabilities to compete in on-water racing.
High Performance Group
As a part of CRI’s commitment to high quality programming, CRI has developed a High Performance Group to develop National Team athletes to compete at the World Championships. The Lightweight Men’s 8+ that was selected and trained at CRI earned a Bronze Medal at the 2015 World Championships in Aiguebelette, France. Outreach Director, Ellen Minzner also served as the head coach for the US LTA 4+ for the third year in a row. The LTA 4+ earned a second silver medal at the 2015 World Rowing Championships, qualifying the crew for the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio. The development athletes play a key role for the IRL and CRI’s recreational and competitive programs, acting as a source of cutting-edge knowledge about the sport that informs the mission of “Rowing for All.”

The US Lightweight Men’s Eight celebrate their bronze medal at the 2015 World Championships. Pictured above (left to right): Tobin McGee, John Devlin, Chris Lambert, Peter Schmidt, Phillip Henson, Alex Twist, David Smith, Matthew Lenhart, John Carlson (c)

Photograph by Allison Frederick/U.S. Rowing

30 Years of Community
In the early years, CRI predominantly rowed and won in wooden boats without coxboxes while their competitors were transitioning to a carbon fiber/honeycomb/epoxy construction that weighed almost 100 pounds less.

“COACH SKYE ELLIOT, GIRLS VARSITY

“The team is young and promising with 25 of the 27 rowers who raced in the three Head of the Charles boats competing in that event for the very first time.”

Competitive Girls Varsity
2015 was a year of transition for the Girls Varsity Team. In the spring the varsity girls qualified three boats for Youth Nationals, but also said goodbye to 19 senior rowers, three senior coxswains and Head Coach Veronika Platzer. In August, CRI welcomed Skye Elliot, former Head Coach at Atlanta Juniors, as the new Girls Varsity Head Coach. The team is young and promising with 25 of the 27 rowers who raced in the three Head of the Charles boats competing in that event for the very first time. The two young 8’s finished an impressive 12th and 31st out of 85 entries in the Women’s Youth Eights, while the Women’s Youth Four finished 47th out of 85 entries.

Pictured above: Skye Elliot, head coach of the Girls Varsity Team on the CRI dock.
Girls Row Boston

Girls Row Boston is entering its 17th year as THE model for youth development rowing programs across the country. More than just a rowing team, Girls Row Boston features academic support, leadership development, and college and career preparation that results in high school graduation and college acceptance rates well above those of the Boston Public Schools average. Currently, the team boasts a GPA of 3.4, and four senior girls have been accepted into college including Merrimack College, Framingham State, and Michigan State.

Military

CRI is committed to providing veterans with opportunities to connect and re-engage in a healthy, active community at the Harry Parker Boathouse. With ongoing team training as well as drop in programs for friends and family, CRI creates a hub of support in addition to providing a healthy outlet for physical activity that has been shown to reduce both service related and non-service related stress.

63% of participants strongly agreed that participation in the program relieved stress related to their everyday experiences, with 34% reporting an increase in the degree to which the program helped relieve their stress from the beginning of the season to the end. CRI partners with the Bedford VA, team RWB, and collaborates with other veteran serving organizations including Home Base, Wounded Warrior, and the Massachusetts Department of Veterans Affairs. Across all CRI programs and one-day veterans events hosted at CRI, we are proud to report that over 1,100 veterans benefited from our programs. Veteran programming is free of charge to all veterans, as our way of saying "thank you for your service."

30 Years of Community

The prized and most highly coveted boat to row back in the early years was the Josephine.

David Letter, stroke seat picture above, participated on the Military Sweep Team last year prior to his deployment to Afghanistan. In this image, he leads a Military Learn to Row with the U.S. Coast Guard.
Siri Demarche, IRL Fellow ’16, brings a Summer Skills class down to the water.

Recreational Youth
CRI helped more than 1,000 youth from metro-Boston try rowing for the first time! In a non-competitive environment, young people between the ages of 12 and 18 learned to row on the Charles through both Crew League and Youth Learn to Row. Rowers moved from the barge, a successful skill development tool, to rowing in eight-person training shells. We hope they will be lifelong fans of both CRI and our amazing sport.

Brent Bode, Head Coach of the Competitive Girls Novice team is pictured above. Coach “Bode” who joined CRI in 2010 also coaches novices and intermediate adult rowers.

“Team culture opens up a space for teens to grow their skills & character in an environment that values both competitiveness and human goodness.”

COACH BRENT BODE, GIRLS NOVICE

Competitive Girls Novice
The Girls Novice Team continues to achieve extraordinary excellence! For the first time ever, the novice girls won the 1N8+ at the US Rowing Northeast District Championships! This is especially sweet because CRI faces a handful of very competitive teams with razor-sharp performance-minded coaching and resources.

The team’s “Fun, Fast, Friends” motto and the camaraderie it creates enables the girls to benefit from the strength of community. Moreover, team culture opens up a space for teens to grow their skills & character in an environment that values both competitiveness and human goodness. CRI is very proud of the girls, their efforts, their commitment to each other, and their accomplishments together. Finally, a gracious thank you to all of those who help build this strong community!

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Competitive Men
The competitive men had a fantastic season with noteworthy performances at Masters Nationals held in Camden NJ. The Men’s A 4+ won a National Championship by narrowly beating Lincoln Park from Chicago. Our B 2-, comprised of Kevin Dutt and Nolan Watts, captured the gold medal by beating a strong crew from Potomac, MD. The squad as a whole looks forward to competing in the Masters Nationals in Worcester, MA in 2016.

Competitive Women
More than 35 women from ages 21-65 and spanning a variety of rowing backgrounds proudly formed CRI’s Competitive Women’s Masters Team in 2015. The year brought many highlights and victories including a very successful Masters National Championship showing in Camden, New Jersey where the women brought home 17 medals and placed 2nd in the team standings. The women made equally dominant appearances at the Head of the Charles and the Head of the Hooch to round out the season, rowing well into November.

30 Years of Community
If you ever received a CRI newsletter called the Quarterly Crab, written by our very own Ellen Minzner, you might have rowed at CRI!

30 Years of Community
Debbie Parker and Mary Howard, learned to row in a CRI Masters program and went on to compete in the 1989 World Championships in the Lightweight Four.

The CRI Women’s Senior Master Four of Courtney Forrester, Camilla Sutter, Gina Sage, and Cheryl Egan (not pictured: coxswain Susan Lamprey) on their way to a fourth place finish at the 2015 Head Of The Charles Regatta.
David Babikian and Joey Carleo, pictured above, were the stern pair in the CRI Men’s Youth Eight entry that finished third place in the 2015 Head Of The Charles.

**Competitive Boys Novice**

2015 was a record-breaking year for the Competitive Boys Novice. After making dramatic gains in the winter training season, the boys won every sweep event they entered. The boys team showed their progress by sweeping the Saratoga invite, Northeast Regionals, and dual races on the Charles. The Competitive Novice Program continues to prepare athletes for the Varsity Program focusing on skill development, training, and racing experience.

**Competitive Boys Varsity**

The Competitive Boys Varsity set new milestones for CRI on multiple fronts in 2015. At the Youth National Championship, the varsity boys achieved unprecedented success with their four entries: 5th place in the lightweight 8+, 1st in the men’s 2-, CRI’s first men’s youth national title, and 3rd and 16th places in the heavyweight 8+ — securing CRI’s first medal in that event. Over the summer the varsity boys placed third in the U19 8+ and won their second consecutive Henley Gold in the U19 4+ at Canadian Henley. In the fall the boys achieved their best finish to date at the Head of the Charles, placing third behind Marin and Oakland in the men’s youth 8+. The boys’ squad is now on a mission to get to the top of the podium at Youth Nationals in 2016.

“Over the summer, the boys placed third in the U19 8+ and won their second consecutive U19 4+ at Canadian Henley.”

**COACH WILL CONGRAM, BOYS VARSITY**

**30 Years of Community**

Until the move to the Harry Parker Boat-house, all equipment was de-rigged and stored at Proctor, in home garages, barns, upper rafters of local boathouses and even at the old armory at BU which is now home to the Agannis Arena and C.R.A.S.H.-B.’s!
Tiffany Macon, pictured above, oversees and implements the Let’s Row Boston Middle School Program at CRI.

“In 2015 there were 11 field trips to the Harry Parker Boathouse, 215 participants at the Boston Youth Indoor Rowing Championships, and 2,106 students in the school based MSIRP”

Tiffany Macon

Middle School Indoor Rowing Program
The 2014-2015 academic year marks the fourth year that the Middle School Indoor Rowing Program (MSIRP) has served Boston Public School students. In 2015 there were 11 field trips to the Harry Parker Boathouse, 215 participants at the Boston Youth Indoor Rowing Championships, and 2,106 students in the school based MSIRP.

The biggest addition in 2015 to the MSIRP is Eddy Mog, our new Middle School Head Coach. Eddy’s dedication to the development of the MSIRP has helped expand the program into more than 25 Boston Public Schools. The MSIRP staff is looking forward to continuing to support the mission of “Rowing for All” in Boston Public Schools.

Boys Row Boston
The Row Boston Boys Varsity squad has made major improvements in the past year in team accountability, attendance and fitness, and nearly accomplished our goal of having every varsity member complete a race in a single. Teamwork, leadership, and motivation have been the intrinsic focuses for this past year and the Row Boston Boys have made great strides toward achieving this.

The team competed in the Lowell Invitational, the Moose on the Malden Regatta, the Massachusetts Public School State Championship in the spring, and the CRI Fall Classic, Head of the Merrimack, Head of the Quinobequin, Merrimack Chase, and Head of the Charles in the fall. Overall, it was a fun year for Row Boston and the team hopes to continue to grow in 2016.

The original CRI uniform was aqua with block, black, felt, iron-on lettering.

Boys Row Boston ensures that all boys in the Boston Public Schools have access to rowing opportunities.

30 Years of Community
O.W.L. On The Water

The OWL on the Water program is designed exclusively for youth enrolled in the Optimal Weight for Life (OWL) clinic at Children’s Hospital Boston. Participants competed at the CRASH B World Indoor Rowing Championships in February and the City of Boston Mayor’s Cup in June.

30 Years of Community

Sherry Proctor, designer of the original Proctor Boathouse, was also the original course architect for the Head Of The Charles Regatta.

Other Programs

Institute for Rowing Leadership (IRL)

2015 brought the enrollment of the largest IRL class to date with nine new fellows joining the Class of 2016 from across the country. With the graduation of the Class of 2015 in June, there are now 28 IRL graduates - including our first international graduate from the United Kingdom - working in a myriad of roles throughout the rowing world.

In addition, the ‘What Works’ Summit Coaching Conference and Monthly Coaching Education Series events reached their highest levels of engagement to date giving CRI and other local coaches regular opportunities to engage in the process of continued learning.

Business Engagement/Corporate Rowing

In 2015 CRI introduced 1200 new corporate rowers to rowing by putting 150 corporate 8+s on the water. We hosted 60 different companies at CRI for events, teambuilding rows and Charles River Rowing league teams. We utilized 450 volunteer slots to help us pull off these successful events. On our biggest single day we hosted twelve 8+s on the water from 3 different companies. Thanks to our wonderful coaches, coxswains, boatmen and volunteers who helped us delight our corporate clients by introducing them to the sport!

Dave Snowdon, Director of Facilities/Boatman, supervises the rigging, maintenance, and repair of our beloved shells and the smooth operation of our facility.
For complete audited financial statements, please email our Manager of Annual Giving at lib.diamond@communityrowing.org.

**Values of programming offered at no cost to participants.**

The Boston Foundation
Josephine and Louise Crane Foundation, Inc.
Laura Davis and Tyler Jacks
Timothy W. Fullham
Jokwowsky Family Foundation
Kathryn E. Keeler
Debra Kemper
Lodge of St. Andrew
Nesworthy Charitable Trust
Roy A. Hunt Foundation
Sanofi Genzyme
Soros Fund Charitable Foundation
The Peabody Foundation, Inc.
Elizabeth Thomas
Vela Foundation
Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated
Wells Fargo
Charles River Apparel
Boylston Properties
Anonymous (1)
Mrs. Marion R. Stone
Stampfli
Mrs. John Hancock MLK National Committee
Irene Chavez
Alejandro and Bordeau

**Program Scholarships**

$179

**General & Administrative**

$1,107

**Program Fees**

$2,475

**Contributions**

$1,653

**Expenses**

**Program**

$2,527

**General and Administrative**

$1,107

**Revenue & Support**

**Program Fees**

$2,475

**Contributions**

$1,653

**Facilities Fees**

$282

**Storage and Rental Fees**

$217

**Special Events**

$106

**Non-Cash Support**

$93

**Other**

$31

**Total Revenue and Support**

$4,859

**Income(Loss) from Operations**

-$(194)

**Total Expenses**

$5,052

**Program Fees**

$2,475

**Program Fees**

$2,527

**Contributions**

$1,653

**General & Administrative**

$1,107

$100,000+
Anonymous (1)
Richard M. Cashin and Elizabeth S. Cashin
$75,000 - $99,999
The Boston Foundation
$50,000 - $74,999
Anonymous (1)
$25,000 - $49,999
Amelia Peabody Foundation
Cummings Foundation, Inc.
Deborah Munroe
Noonan Memorial Fund
Edward Ford and Jennifer Fruthey
J. E. & Z. B. Butler Foundation
Liberty Mutual Foundation
Mabel Louise Riley Foundation
Lila McCann and Peter Beaman
Mark Proctor and Charlotte McKeen
Mr. Hamid R. Moghadam
Rabbi Abraham Halbfinger and Charlesview Charitable Fund
Tremont Street Foundation
Yawkey Foundation
$10,000 - $24,999
Anonymous (1)
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation
American Heart Association
Anna B. Stearns Charitable Foundation, Inc.
Anonymous Family Fund
Cabot Family Charitable Trust
John Carlson
CHT Foundation

**Community Rowing’s Legacy Society**

Please consider joining our Legacy Society and including CRI in your estate.

Dr. Eugenia and Leonard Marcus
Jane Morse
A. Hugh Scott

Including CRI in your estate and overall financial plans ensures that the commitment and dedication you brought to CRI’s mission of “Rowing for All” will continue.

Please contact Lib Diamond at lib.diamond@communityrowing.org or 978.846.1326 for more information.

**FY2015 Community Rowing Contributors**

Jessie B. Cox CLT - Cox Family Fund
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Ricky Vandegrift, Zach Burns, Molly Moore, Jaclyn Smith and Jenny Sichel (coxswain) during LTA 4+ selection for the 2015 World Rowing and Para Rowing Championships.