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C's co-owner takes break from Senate campaign to shoot hoops

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Celtics co-owner and US Senate candidate Stephen Pagliuca sinks his shot during a friendly free-throw contest with local youth on a visit to the Boys & Girls Club's Pearl Street Clubhouse in Framingham Wednesday. (Courtesy: Boys & Girls Clubs of MetroWest)

By Matt Rocheleau, Globe Correspondent

Though they are currently tied for the third-best record in the NBA, the Boston Celtics have struggled at the free throw line this season.

But the member of the Celtics organization who impressed youngsters and staff at the Boys & Girls Clubs of MetroWest in Framingham Wednesday with his free-throw and jump-shooting abilities is not among the team's players.

On Wednesday, Celtics co-owner and U.S. Senate candidate Stephen Pagliuca toured the youth club's recently renovated Pearl Street Clubhouse facility, which the club moved to from its former home on Hollis Street in June 2008. He also participated in a friendly free-throw competition with some of the club's youth.

"He was awesome," said Vice President for Development at the Boys & Girls Clubs of MetroWest, Julie Horrigan. "He really got into it. He impressed us all, and was great with the kids."

With around 100 young eyes fixed on him, Pagliuca sunk his shot during the friendly contest under "a lot of pressure," Horrigan said; and then showed some of his on-court skills while shooting around for a while with the children at the Danforth Gym.

The businessman, who lived in Framingham for several years during his youth, also hosted a game of Celtics trivia where he distributed prizes to all of the children.

"The Boys & Girls Clubs of MetroWest is an example of a non-profit organization that is in the prevention business," said Pagliuca in a press release.

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organization that is in the prevention business," said Pagliuca in a press release from the club. "Each day they serve over 600 kids across the MetroWest region giving them the opportunity to make positive decisions at a young age so that they have the chance to reach their full potential in life. As a society we need to develop a culture of giving back and supporting great organizations like the Boys & Girls Clubs of MetroWest."

Boys & Girls Clubs of MetroWest President, Fran Hurley and members of the organization's Board of Directors toured Pagliuca through the clubhouse explaining the variety of out-of-school programs that the club offers including education, health and wellness, technology, athletics, social recreation and the arts, said the release.

"Steve Pagliuca shares our passion for helping local youth reach their full potential," Hurley said in the release. "Each day we strive to give our members the skills and tools that they will need to become productive members of our community."

The Boys & Girls Clubs of MetroWest serves over 3,200 youth each year at a membership fee of \$25 per child, which makes it one of the largest and most affordable Boys & Girls Club organizations in the state.

The club is celebrating 65 years of providing out-of-school programming for the youth of greater Marlborough, Hudson and Framingham.

For more on the Boys & Girls Clubs of MetroWest, visit www.bgcmetrowest.org.



Celtics co-owner and US Senate candidate Stephen Pagliuca visits with local youth on a visit to the Boys & Girls Club's Pearl Street Clubhouse in Framingham Wednesday. (Courtesy: Boys & Girls Clubs of MetroWest)

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