

# HISTORY

Trackside, the Teen Center of Wilton is a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit that focuses on serving the unique needs of teenagers during their most vulnerable years. Wilton is a town of approximately 18,000 residents located in southwestern CT, just north of the Merritt Parkway. Wilton is a suburban community that is a blend of commercial businesses and private residences. Trackside was founded in 2003 after the historic Dana House was donated to the town of Wilton for the express purpose of creating teen center has grown to be one of Wilton most loved treasures. Opening to our teens in 2004 after extensive renovations, Trackside has ensured that 15 years of Wilton's teens and tweens have had a safe, drug and alcohol-free place to call their own. When not in use by our teens, Trackside is also an highly versatile rental facility for the community.

# MISSION

To provide safe, supervised alcohol-tobacco and drug-free place where Wilton's Teens can gather to socialize after school and during special events. Trackside is the "third place" in addition to home and school where teens can develop their social skills and benefit from a safe, unstructured environment.

Teen Center of Wilton  
15 Station Road, Wilton, CT 06897  
203.834.2888  
[www.trackside.org](http://www.trackside.org)

**CINDY MOSER**  
Director, Development & Operations

**DR. JOHN PRIEST**  
Director, Programming

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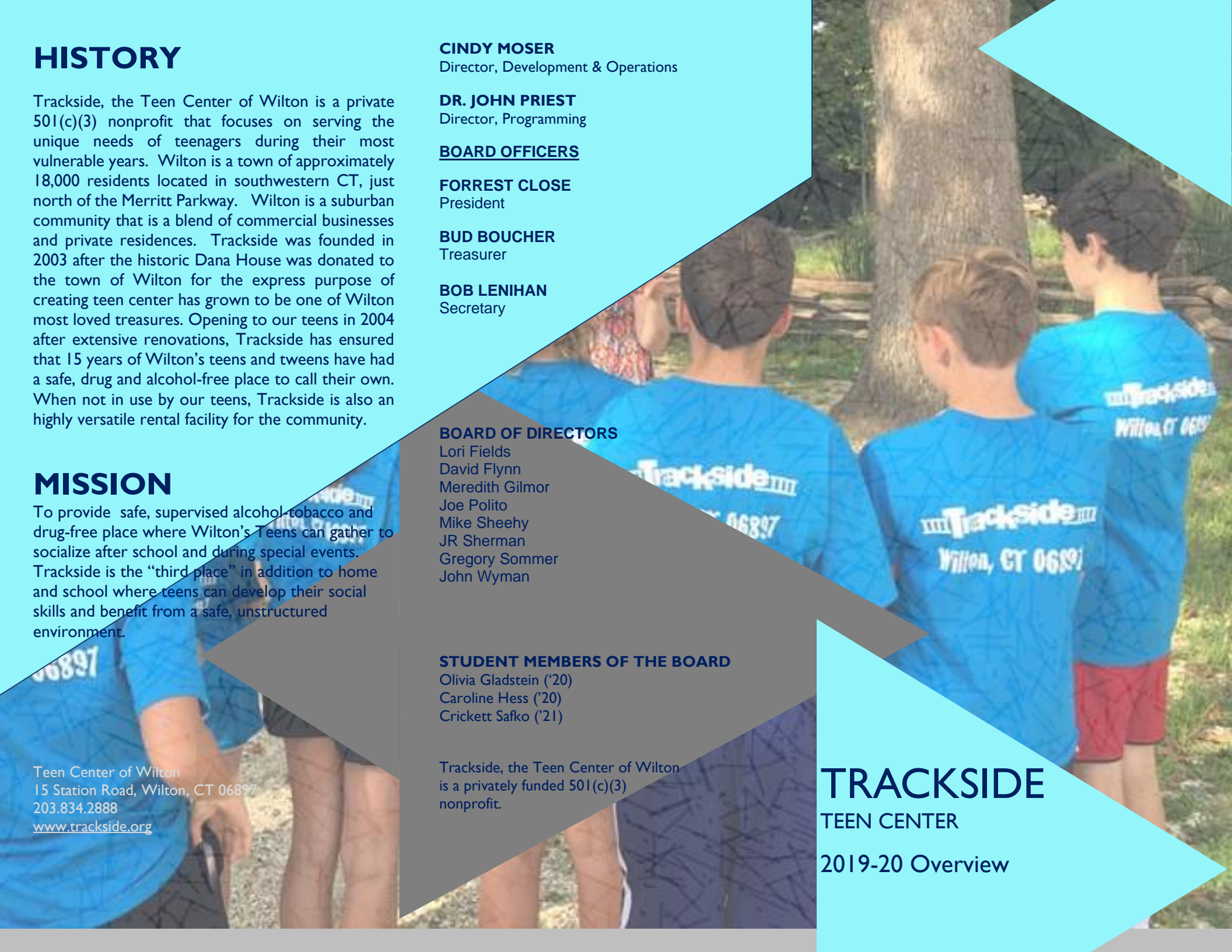
Olivia Gladstein ('20)  
Caroline Hess ('20)  
Crickett Safko ('21)

Trackside, the Teen Center of Wilton is a privately funded 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

# TRACKSIDE

TEEN CENTER

2019-20 Overview



Teenage years are big years of change in a child's life, and today's teens are faced with even more changes and challenges than those in prior generations. So perhaps it is no surprise that Trackside, the Teen Center of Wilton is undergoing big changes and big challenges as well. One of **Wilton's Top Treasures** and with a new leadership team in place, Trackside is poised to reinvent itself for today's generation of teens. The center is focused on ensuring Trackside successfully shifts and evolves to remain a hub of activity, opportunity and safety for our Wilton pre-teens and teens.

For nearly 15 years, we have ensured Wilton's teens always have a **safe, drug and alcohol-free place** to spend time and to call their own. Over these years, Trackside has been an invaluable asset where **hundreds of Wilton's teens** to spend their vulnerable years, figuring out who they are and what they like while spending time with their friends and engage in a wide array of teen centric activities.

We are currently **upgrading our uniquely flexible facility, revamping our programs and introducing new events** to better support and engage this current generation of teens. The changes we've implemented have already **more than tripled** the number both middle school and high school teens that have spent time at Trackside this year.

Trackside has a **reinvigorated future** and can only continue to thrive with **generous donations from community** partners, businesses, donors and supporters who want to ensure **OUR teens have a safe place** to call their own and that the community has a fun and flexible space for events and parties. Renew your support or become a supporter of Trackside today!

**OUR FUTURE DEPENDS ON YOU!**

[www.trackside.org/donation](http://www.trackside.org/donation)

## 2019 Community Building Fundraisers:

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Food Truck Festival (Aug 17)  
MonsterMash Over 21 Halloween Party (Oct 26)  
Cohosted with Our Lady of Fatima Academy  
80's Dance Party (Feb/Mar)  
Final Four Event (April 4, 2020)  
9<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Outing (June 4, 2020)

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## 2019-20 Teen Programs & Events

Student Advisory Board (HS and MS) – Hearing what's important and of interest to the teens, directly from them is one of the core beliefs of Trackside. Interested teens can apply to join and work together to bring their ideas to life.

Open Stage – Our newest combined High and Middle School program. This program creates a coffeehouse setting for our teens to share their music, comedy, poetry, art and stories in their own words and in their own way.

Friday at the Movies! – Friday afternoons teens vote on what to watch on the Big Screen. 4-6 times a year, we also hold special evening events with a blockbuster and theme!

Video Gamers Club/ Tournaments - While the games themselves may change, the popularity of playing video games after school for both high school and middle school teens is a constant.

Girlz Rule – On select days, Girlz Rule Trackside! Special workshops, programs, shows including DYI skills development, self-esteem builders, special interest topics and control over all 12 screens!

Quiz Bowl Club - Started by Wilton HS Freshman, our Quiz Bowl club meets weekly to practice and prepare for local and regional competitions.

Paint with a Purpose - Introducing teens to new art techniques while improving Tracksides in the process. Teens work together to create decorate panels, doors and accessories to bring Trackside to life!

\*Thanks to special funding from County Assemblies

Virtual Reality Club - Remaining cutting edge while introducing teens to new and shared experiences is a focus. This year we introduced our new VR club for teens to work together while experiencing the next generation of gaming

\*Thanks to special funding from Wilton Kiwanis

PrePlay (MS Improv) Club - High School improv comics mentor younger teens in the art of Improv and work with them to develop interest in skills in this exciting and fun filled comedy field.

Rising up Series - Connecting teens in ways that help share important and meaningful information about major transitions, such as entering Middle School, High School and College... from those who have most recently lived it.

Adventure & College Trips - Teens travel together to experience the sights, sounds and culture of a historic city or to visit multiple colleges to help them prep for the future.

Trivial Nights – One Friday night each month, we host an all ages Trivia contest for teens to team up and come out to test their knowledge versus their friends!

Green Teens – *In collaboration with the Wilton Garden Club and Wilton Youth Council*, Trackside is excited each spring to kick off our Green Teens Program where teens prep, plant, tend and harvest our Neighborhood garden. All produce is donated to the Wilton Food Pantry.

And more, with new events and programs being planned each month!!!

