

Gwen Cherry Park Foundation

Providing support for the NFL Youth Education Town at Gwen Cherry Park




Annual Report 2012 – 2013

“It is easier to build strong children, than to repair broken men.”
- Frederick Douglass

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 Gwen Cherry Park Foundation



NFL YET at Gwen Cherry Park

NFL YET Center Amenities

- Computer room
- Reception area
- Game room
- Arts and crafts room
- Multi-purpose rooms
- Air conditioned gymnasium
- Kitchen
- Covered patio
- Large dividable classrooms
- Miami Dolphins fitness arcade
- Library
- Administrative offices

Park Amenities

- 2 lighted athletic fields
- 2 lighted basketball courts
- Lighted softball diamond
- Amphitheater
- 800-person bleacher seating
- 2 lighted tennis courts
- Swimming pool
- Picnic area
- Lighted 400-meter track
- Lighted baseball diamond
- Tot lot
- Outdoor Fitness Zone

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f NFL YET Center Miami

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR THE GWEN CHERRY PARK FOUNDATION (#CH21734) MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE FLORIDA DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.



LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends of the NFL YET Center,

The past 12 months have been a time of excitement and achievement for the children at the NFL Youth Education Town (NFL YET) at Gwen Cherry Park. Our children now “star” in an informational video that tells the story of the academic and athletic programs provided by Communities In Schools of Miami, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Miami-Dade and the Miami-Dade Parks Department at the NFL YET Center. Our disciplined Junior Midget football team advanced to the Pop Warner League National Championship game. Our acclaimed Dance Team won the “I Love to Dance” competition. Additionally, with the support from the Miami Dolphins, our children enjoyed one of the best summer camps ever. The Summer Camp included field trips, the University of Miami Hall of Fame Fishing Tournament, a community festival, a festive Fourth of July celebration, a talent show and much, much more.

We are thrilled that, with support from the Community Action Agency (CAA), there is now a program for our senior citizens at the NFL YET Center. Our seniors have embraced this program and participation is increasing. We anticipate a very successful year ahead.

Given the achievements of our youth, the Gwen Cherry Park Foundation is starting a major fundraising campaign that will help us support, sustain and expand the academic, athletic, health, nutrition and fitness programs at the NFL YET. Our goals are to create a state-of-the-art technology center and develop programs to improve literacy, increase job skills and enhance life skills. **Your generous contribution will help us foster a safe, nurturing environment to uplift the quality of life in this inner-city neighborhood.** Please help us give our children positive programs to “SAY YES” to.

Life is good!

For the children,

H.T. Smith, Chairman

History of the NFL YET Center and the Gwen Cherry Park Foundation



In 1995, under the leadership of Hank Adorno, Dean Colson and H.T. Smith, with the strong support of the South Florida Super Bowl Host Committee, a \$1,000,000 grant was secured from the NFL Charities as seed capital to construct an NFL Youth Education Town (NFL YET) in Miami. An additional \$2,600,000 was raised from local businesses, firms, organizations and private citizens.

An advisory board led by H.T. Smith reviewed several different locations for the placement of the NFL YET. They decided to construct it at Gwen Cherry Park, a 38-acre park located in Liberty City. The park is named after Gwendolyn Sawyer Cherry, the first Black female legislator in the State of Florida.

In 1995, Hall of Fame Miami Dolphins player Dwight Stephenson's construction company, D. Stephenson Construction, began building the NFL YET Center. The grand opening for the 22,000 sq. ft. facility was held on December 16, 1996. At the grand opening, the private sector donated the NFL YET Center to Miami-Dade County.

In 1997, the Gwen Cherry Park Foundation, Inc. was established as a tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization to provide leadership in fundraising to support future programming at the NFL YET Center. It works with Miami-Dade County and its community partners to ensure that people in the Scott-Carver neighborhood receive first class park programming and facilities. The Foundation is led by a Board of Directors that sets policy for raising and spending financial contributions to support the community, particularly our youth, who are served by the NFL YET Center.



Newly Constructed NFL YET Center



Original Computer Room

Since its inception, the programming at the NFL YET has been primarily provided by Communities In Schools of Miami, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Miami-Dade and the Miami-Dade County Parks & Recreation Department. Throughout the years, the park has expanded by adding bleachers, a football field, a score board, an outdoor basketball court, a pool, baseball and softball fields and a tot lot.

In 2012, with support from NFL Charities and the Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond Program, the Gwen Cherry Park Foundation donated over \$1 million in funds to build a 5,000 sq. ft. addition to the NFL YET Center. The ultimate goal of the Foundation is to build an endowment large enough to guarantee a perpetual fund for the vital programs at the NFL YET and Gwen Cherry Park.



Building Expansion Ribbon Cutting



Summer Camp 2013

Year in Review



Gwen Cherry Bulls Football Team

NOVEMBER 2012

- 23 Gwen Cherry Bulls football and cheerleading teams travel to the Regional Championship

DECEMBER 2012

- 8 Gwen Cherry Bulls Football Junior Midgets team plays in the Division I National Championship Game
- 18 Gwen Cherry Park Foundation Board Member Jerry Sawyer receives 10-year Service Award
- 19 NFLYET Christmas Festival and Toy Give-A-Way
- 24 Winter Camp



Toy Give-A-Way

JANUARY 2013

- 8 NFLYET launches Adult Line Dancing
- 24 NFLYET launches Seniors Program

FEBRUARY 2013

- 5 Black History Month celebration with the Miami Dolphins
- 14 Valentine's Day Dance
- 15 Miami-Dade County Public Schools National Black Aids Awareness Day Program
- 28 Black History Month Show



Black History Month with the Dolphins

MARCH 2013

- 6 Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration
- 20 Women's History Month Luncheon
- 21 Easter Egg Hunt
- 25 Spring Break Camp



Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration

APRIL 2013

- 13 Gwen Cherry Bulls football team's Awards Banquet
- 16 Gwen Cherry Park Foundation recognized at Volunteer Awards Ceremony by the Miami-Dade Parks and Recreation Department
- 20 Community Movie Night
- 22 Earth Day Celebration
- 23 NFLYET youth participated in Miami Dolphins Junior Angler Fishing Clinic at the IGFA Hall of Fame
- 29 Mayor's Neighborhood Crime Prevention Rally



Dolphins Junior Angler Fishing Clinic

MAY 2013

- 10 Black Door Dance Workshop
- 18 Community Movie Night
- 19 NFLYET dance team wins the "I Love to Dance" Competition
- 24 • Communities In School's Graduation Ceremony
• Gwen Cherry Park Foundation presents Virgil Valdez with its 2011 Guardian Angel Award
- 30 Active Adults 55 Plus Health & Wellness Fair
- 31 Latrice J. Sinois' *You Are My Sunshine* book signing



Dance Team

JUNE 2013

- 10 Summer Camp
- 22 Community Movie Night
- 29 University of Miami Fishing Trip in Key Largo



Graduation Ceremony

JULY 2013

- 4 Fourth of July Celebration
- 20 Community Line Dance Party
- 26 Summer Talent Showcase

AUGUST 2013

- 9 Field Day
- 10 • Back to School Community Festival with Legal Clinic, Jazz Concert and Movie Night at the Park
• Gwen Cherry Park Foundation presents Miami-Dade County Commissioner Jean Monestime with its 2012 Guardian Angel Award
- 16 End of Summer Program Picnic



Back-to-School Festival

SEPTEMBER 2013

- 5 Coca-Cola Foundation Troops for Fitness Kick-Off
- 14 Gwen Cherry Bulls home football games
- 21 Gwen Cherry Bulls home football games
- 28 Gwen Cherry Bulls home football games



Coca Cola Troops Fitness Kickoff

OCTOBER 2013

- 5 Gwen Cherry Bulls home football games
- 16 Breast Cancer Awareness Month Activity
- 17 Gwen Cherry Park Foundation wins the Public Space Challenge
- 19 Gwen Cherry Park Homecoming
- 20 Cheerleading teams win Annual Dance and Cheer Competition
- 23 Say NO to Drugs Program
- 27 Slugfest Entertainment Spookfest Event
- 31 Harvest Day Celebration



Homecoming Kings and Queens

NFL YET ACHIEVER

Name: Renaiya

Age: 10

How did you first hear about the NFL YET Center at Gwen Cherry Park?

A friend told me about it and I later heard about it from my school.

Who decided that you would start attending the NFLYET Center at Gwen Cherry Park?

Mom made that decision.

What type of activities do you participate in at the NFLYET Center?

I participate in dance and a sport.

What do you like the most about going to the NFLYET Center?

The activities, the neatness and friendliness of the staff there. They are awesome!

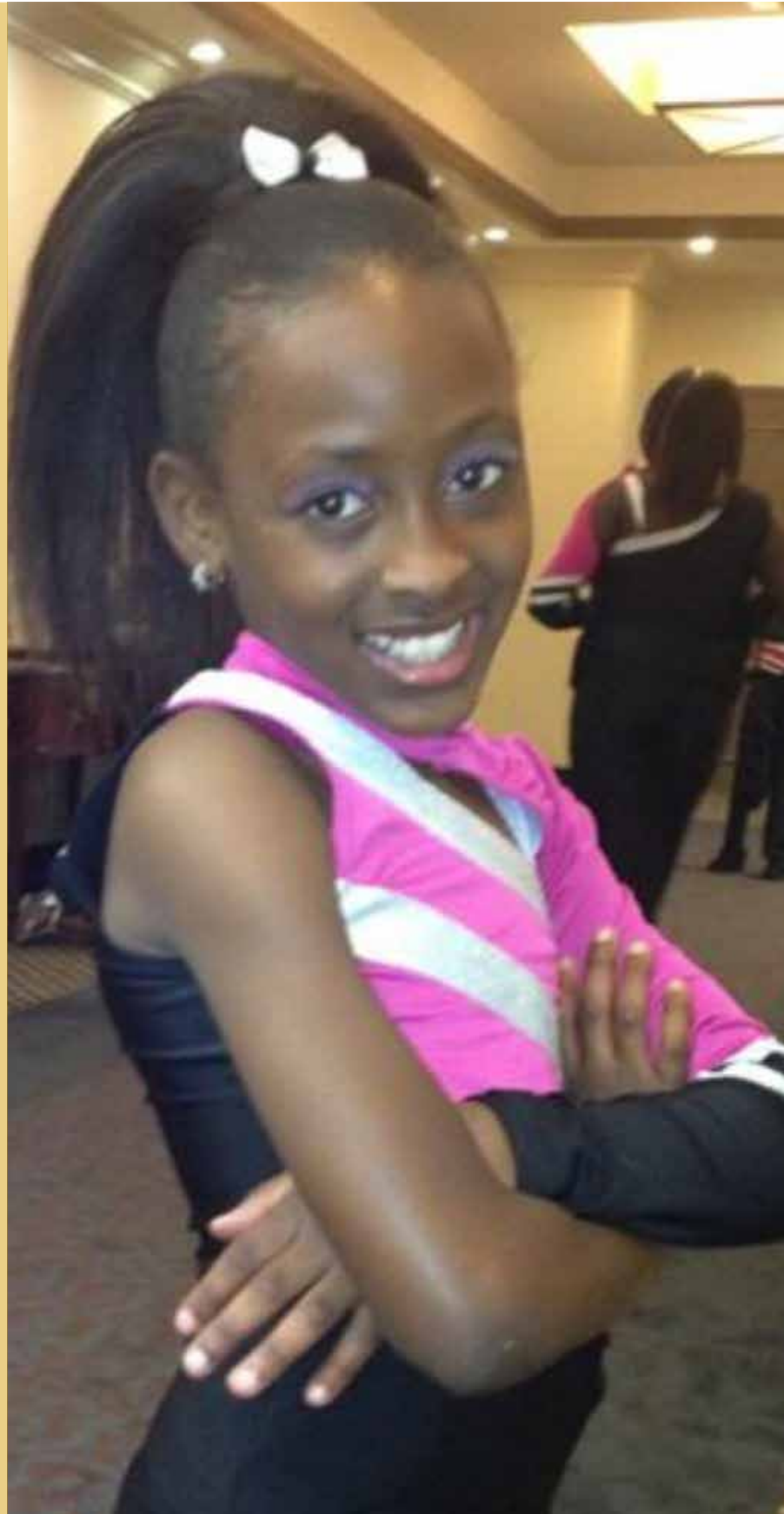
What would you like to do in the future at the NFLYET Center?

Before going to college, I may be one of the tutors or staff there.

[To Renaiya's parents]

How has Renaiya grown as a result of participating in the programs at the NFLYET Center?

She has learned to become more independent and responsible every year. She has also learned to make sure certain things are done there before she gets home. We can see her future. As long as we have the NFLYET Center behind us helping her to become a better person, she will succeed. Today, it really does take a village to raise a child...and it starts from home, school and ends at the NFL YET Center keeping everything positive. Thanks to you guys for helping us make her a better person each and every year.



Grants and Social Activities Funded

November 1, 2012 - October 31, 2013

Score Store

The Foundation provided a grant to Communities In Schools for the "Score Store," an incentive program which allows students to earn points for their behavior, participation, attendance and achievements. The Foundation also provided funds for a television to be given away as a grand prize for the student who had saved the most points throughout the year.



Gwen Cherry Bulls Football Team

The Foundation provided grants to the Boys and Girls Clubs to support the Gwen Cherry Bulls Junior Midget football team's participation in the Level I and II Regional Championships and the 2012 Pop Warner National Championship.



Gwen Cherry Bulls Cheerleading Team

The Foundation provided a grant to the Boys and Girls Clubs to support the participation of the Junior Pee Wee cheerleading team in the Regional Championship.

Gwen Cherry Bulls Football Team Awards Banquet

The Foundation sponsored an awards dinner to celebrate the Junior Midget team's participation in the national championship football game.

NFLYET Center Annual Christmas Festival

The Foundation provided funds for the NFLYET Toy Give-A-Way and other activities during the Annual Christmas Festival.

Holiday Gift Baskets

The Foundation provided a grant to Communities In Schools for gift baskets to parents whose children regularly attend the afterschool program.

Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Holiday Celebration

The Foundation awarded a grant to Communities In Schools for supplies, materials and awards for an essay and oratorical contest about the life and legacy of Dr. King.

Black History Month Show and Activities

The Foundation provided funding for Communities In Schools to teach children about African-American achievers. At the end of the month, the students produced a talent show for approximately 160 students and 50 parents.



NFLYET Dance Team Uniforms and Shoes

Eleven girls from the NFLYET dance team competed and won the "I Love to Dance" Competition. The Foundation donated funds to purchase the team members' uniforms and shoes.



Art in Public Places Project Installation

In conjunction with the completion of the addition to the NFL YET Center in 2012, renowned artist Aramis O'Reilly was selected to install artwork at the NFL YET Center. O'Reilly, a professor at New World School of the Arts, has had his work exhibited nationally and internationally.

O'Reilly's concept for the project was to create an artificial grass mural above the lobby that would serve as a marquee and would recognize the late State Representative Gwendolyn Sawyer Cherry. The marquee features markers and side lines representing a football field. Ms. Cherry's name is cut deeply into the grass along with the name of the center's football teams. Her picture, which is framed in an oval shape, is the center of the field. Mr. O'Reilly felt that Gwen Cherry's legacy "centered the center's activities."

In addition to the portions of the artwork that he created, O'Reilly also wanted to have youth participate and be a part of the project. As a result, 51 children from the facility created the colorful flaglike banners that were placed below the turf. The children's involvement in the project also gave them and their parents an opportunity to learn more about Gwen Cherry. According to O'Reilly, the flags are interchangeable and can be repositioned to celebrate various occasions and holidays. His vision is to keep changing the flags to "give the impression that the lobby is always new."

With the help of the youth at the park, Mr. O'Reilly completed the art installation in June 2013.



Gwen Cherry Bulls Celebrate National Championship Game



Imagine being a thirteen year old football player from the inner city and your team is great enough to attend the 2012 Pop Warner League National Championship. For almost thirty Gwen Cherry Bulls football players on the Junior Midgets team, this was a wonderful opportunity to experience an out of town team trip and represent their community in the Division I category at the National Championships in Orlando.

Kiaryn "Chops" Davis, a running back who has played football since he was the age of four, enjoyed his time in Orlando. The other teams at the National Championship were much harder to play against and the players were also "bigger." Although he had traveled to Disney World previously, it was a different experience because he was traveling with his team. Kiaryn found that playing for the Bulls team was great because of the coaching staff, "They make you learn a lot at Gwen Cherry."

Rondricka Jefferies-Davis, his mother, said that Kiaryn has wanted to play football because it is a fun activity. However, she keeps him in sports "to keep his mind occupied." Ms. Jefferies-Davis has found that activities like this at the NFL YET made her son want to return to the Pop Warner League team again this year.

She too has no complaints. "Everything was really nice. The Gwen Cherry Park Foundation offers kids a lot of opportunity, a lot of exposure." She also praises the NFL YET coaches and the Boys and Girls Clubs.

During the five days that the team was in Orlando, their time was spent practicing and doing supervised homework. In total, 14 volunteers, including Coaches Joe Nassis and Larry Moss, made the trip with Boys and Girls Clubs Unit Director O.J. Miller.

Although the Gwen Cherry Bulls did not win the National Championship in 2012, the Gwen Cherry Park Foundation and the Boys and Girls Clubs honored them with a championship banquet. NFL football players T.Y. Hilton and Anthony Gaitor attended the event to encourage the players' future possibilities. Gwen Cherry Park Foundation Board Member Jerry Sawyer discussed the value of education and good behavior. Funding from the Gwen Cherry Park Foundation and a grant from Miami-Dade County allowed these players to travel to Orlando to play in the Regional and National Championships.

Commissioner Jean Monestime Receives Guardian Angel Award



The Gwen Cherry Park Foundation bestowed its prestigious Guardian Angel Award to District 2 Miami-Dade County Commissioner Jean Monestime. The award was presented during his Back to School Community Festival held at the NFL YET Center, where hundreds of kids were given free book bags and school supplies.

The plaque was presented to Commissioner Monestime by Gwen Cherry Park Foundation Board Members Elaine Black and Erica Wright. Ms. Black stated during the presentation, "We're so fortunate to have a wonderful facility in Liberty City. Commissioner Jean Monestime, our Guardian Angel, helps make our goals a reality. We thank him for all that he does to ensure that Gwen Cherry Park is all it can be."

Commissioner Monestime thanked the Foundation for the award. He remarked, "I am truly honored and humbled to receive this award from the Gwen Cherry Park Foundation. I believe that the best way to build a strong community is by investing in our children and providing them with tools they need to reach their full potential." The award was given in recognition of Commissioner Monestime's strong support of the Gwen Cherry Park and the NFL YET.

The Guardian Angel Award is presented annually to an individual who has made extraordinary contributions to the mission of the NFL YET at Gwen Cherry Park. These contributions may include substantial volunteerism, significant philanthropy and major fundraising. The contributions are evaluated based primarily upon the positive, measurable effect they have on supporting and sustaining academic or athletic programming or upgrading the facilities at the NFL YET at Gwen Cherry Park.

Gwen Cherry Park Foundation Board of Directors



H.T. Smith
CHAIRMAN



Elaine Black
SECRETARY



Erica N. Wright
TREASURER



Jerry C. Sawyer
DIRECTOR



Bobby Johnson
NFL YET MIAMI
PARK MANAGER



Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and
Open Spaces Department



Boys and Girls Clubs of
Miami-Dade



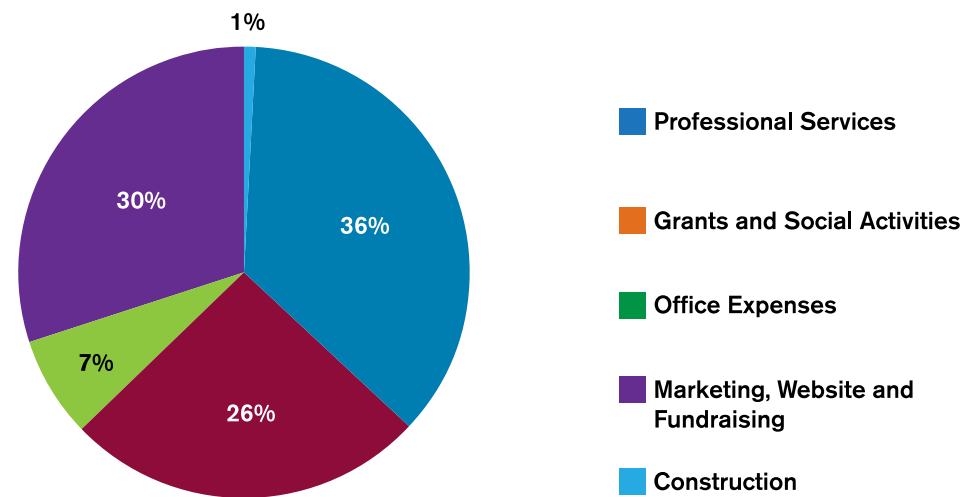
Vicki Antonio
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
GWEN CHERRY
PARK FOUNDATION



Communities In Schools
of Miami

Annual Budget

Expenditures



Donors

We would like to thank the following persons and organizations for their generous financial support of the Foundation during 2012 - 2013¹

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Elaine Black | Jerry Sawyer |
| Colson Hicks Eidson | Detra Shaw Wilder |
| Frame by Frame Productions | H.T. Smith |
| Ken Hartmann | Virgil Valdez |
| David Kraslow | V. Lynn Whitfield |
| Law Offices of Paul Morris | Thomas Wood |
| Miami Dolphins Foundation | Thomas Wilson |
| Bruce Matheson | Carol G. Wyllie |
| Joe Ogelsby | Erica Wright |

¹From November 1, 2012 - October 31, 2013

Help us to support positive programs at the NFL YET at Gwen Cherry Park



Puppetry Show



Youth Sports



Computer Room



Summer Camp



Outdoor Fitness Zone



Miami Dolphin Indoor Fitness Zone

The Gwen Cherry Park Foundation was one of the winners of the Miami Foundation's Public Space Challenge. Its winning idea was to obtain funding for shade covering over the Outdoor Fitness Zone. The idea promotes health, wellness and greater utilization of the park.

Stay informed about the activities of the Gwen Cherry Park Foundation and the NFL YET at Gwen Cherry Park. Log onto our website www.gwencherryparkfoundation.org

Special thanks to Bobby Johnson, Karla Brown, Eve McKinsey, O.J. Miller, Sandra Gay, Douglas Lance, Cal Brewton and Sereba Young for submitting information and photos for this Annual Report.



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"Why I Like the NFL YET at Gwen Cherry Park" Winner – *Sheltona'e Ballard*

