Building New Beginnings on Historic Success

With a new year in full swing, Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta (BGCMA) is excited to welcome the children back into the Clubs for another year of programs focused on academic success, healthy living and good citizenship.

With 2009 behind us, we can reflect on the challenges we overcame and feel energized about the promising opportunities that lie ahead.

BGCMA welcomes Brent Wilson as the new Chair of the Board of Directors. He is a partner in the law firm of Elarbee, Thompson, Sapp & Wilson, where he has practiced labor relations and employment discrimination law for over thirty years. Brent has been a Board member for 13 years and is committed to BGCMA through his leadership and support. This year, he will lead all Board efforts in raising funds, creating awareness and streamlining programs and operations. We are certain Brent’s experience and dedication to the community and his enthusiasm for how BGCMA saves lives will elevate the organization.

As Brent takes on his new role, Scott Greene, who has been the Chair of the Board for three years, will continue to serve on the Board of Directors and has pledged his continued support and advocacy for BGCMA. Scott played an instrumental role in helping BGCMA develop into the great organization it is today. Scott led the organization as BGCMA expanded its footprint across the region. It is also important to recognize that Scott helped develop the strategy that will guide BGCMA through the current challenging times. BGCMA is grateful and thankful to have had Scott lead us into 2010.

With a fresh beginning, BGCMA continues its commitment to investing your dollars in quality programs that save lives every day. One of our priorities and promises for this year is to keenly sharpen programs dedicated to academic success. For youth from disadvantaged backgrounds, there is an urgent need to set early expectations around academic achievement, high school graduation, and the link between higher education and career attainment. Georgia has one of the lowest graduation rates in the country, and nationally, graduation rates for African-American, Hispanic and economically disadvantaged youth lag behind those of their peers. At BGCMA, we are focused on changing those trends.

We are able to support disadvantaged children and local school systems by providing supplemental education help through homework assistance, tutoring, college and career preparation, and overall education related to good character, healthy living and good citizenship. A year of educational support for one child costs BGCMA $1,000. In 2010, BGCMA will increase the time youth spend on academic activities, as well as enhance educational components within existing programs. In addition, a new curriculum-based academic program is being developed in coordination with new, education-focused employee positions within the Clubs.

Addressing alarming education concerns in the community and activating a plan to change statistics cannot be accomplished without you and your support. Times are still challenging, and now more than ever, our kids need continued commitment. I know together we can deliver on our PROMISE to our kids, our communities and each other. Thank you for your devotion to children who need you most.

For our kids,

William Lampley
President
Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta
The holidays are a time for family, friends and creating life-long memories. It is also a time when families and individuals want to give back to the community. That's just what they did this past holiday season.

The annual Adopt-a-Club program supported holiday activities for Club members. Through a variety of local community supporters and companies, each Club threw a holiday celebration party for its members. Kids of all ages enjoyed a holiday feast, cherished togetherness with staff and other members and received gifts. For some kids, it may be the only present or celebration they received all holiday season.

In December, Club Blue, the young professionals' society for BGCMA, hosted its third annual Candy Canes & Cocktails Metromixer at Twisted Taco Midtown. More than 60 young professionals enjoyed holiday cheer while connecting to change lives. In addition to the party, members also participated in the first annual Candy Cane Greetings for Kids campaign. Members sold cards for a $1.00 each and then gave the cards to Club kids. Each card held a special message for a child, giving them warm wishes for a great holiday. Through both initiatives, Club Blue raised nearly $1,000 for BGCMA.

BGCMA kids participated in Chris Milman’s Shop with a Jock Shop with a Jock in the second year in a row. Atlanta Falcons Rookie Class hosted 13 Boys & Girls Club members from BGCMA’s W. W. Woolfolk, Lawrenceville and Joseph B. Whitehead Clubs on December 7 at Wal-Mart on Howell Mill. Each child was given a $150 gift card to holiday shop. Most of the members not only purchased items for themselves, but they also purchased items for their loved ones.

Joe Johnson, an Atlanta Hawks player, held his annual Santa Lanta party for Torch Club Officers on December 7 at Andretti’s Indoor Karting and Games in Roswell. Torch Club is a leadership club for members ages 10-12 that focuses on community and giving back. This marks the fifth year of Joe’s support, where he treats the kids to an afternoon full of fun, food and a few surprise holiday gifts.

On December 9, Herman-Miller and its associates visited the Warren/Holyfield Club to host their annual, “We Care” Holiday Art Party in connection with the Youth Art Connection. They spent time during this holiday giving back and showing kids various ways they could make their own holiday gifts for their families.

While many people were graciously giving back to BGCMA during the holiday season, BGCMA kids were also doing their part. BGCMA teaches the importance of giving back and community involvement, which is why all Clubs and members of their leadership programs participated in 11Alive’s annual Can-A-Thon. Together, they collected hundreds of cans to help those in need of food. Because BGCMA’s children benefit every day through your support, they understand first-hand how a little help goes a long way, especially during the holidays.

Spreading Holiday Cheer
To meet the growing needs of teens in Gwinnett County and Douglas County, Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta (BGCMA) is expanding two of its facilities to include brand new teen centers: A. Worley Brown Boys & Girls Club and the Douglas County Boys & Girls Club.

The A. Worley Brown Teen Center Groundbreaking was held on December 3, 2009 and the Douglas County Teen Center Groundbreaking was held on December 10, 2009.

Across the nation, teen membership and ongoing Club involvement is enhanced by teens having a place of their own within the Club. To meet this need and actively engage more teenagers in the community, BGCMA and community leaders recognized the needs for new teen centers. The centers will be separate facilities, but connected to the main clubhouses. Trained adult staff members will implement Club programs focused on improving academic success, good character & citizenship and healthy lifestyles and mentor teen members.

“We are grateful to all those who believe in our mission,” said Missy Dugan, COO for BGCMA. “With these new teen centers, we hope to engage more teens in our communities. Our place of promise allows teens to be themselves while providing positive youth development and opportunities that help them succeed academically, personally and professionally.”

The estimated cost for the A. Worley Brown Boys & Girls Club teen center is $950,000. To support the campaign, contact Sheryl Manley at (770) 825-8135 or smanley@bgcma.org or send to: Attention: The Teen Center Building Campaign, A. Worley Brown Boys & Girls Club, 100 Edgewood Avenue, Suite 700, Atlanta, GA 30303.

The estimated cost for the new Douglas County Club teen center is more than $1,000,000. For more information, call David Kazanowski at (770) 577-5717 or to make a donation to the Douglas County Teen Center Building Campaign, visit any one of the three SunTrust Bank locations in Douglasville, or donate online at www.bgcma.org/club/douglas, or send to: Attention: The Teen Center Building Campaign, Douglas County Boys & Girls Club, 8828 Gurley Road, Douglasville GA, 30134.

Steve Hord & William Lampley of BGCMA

A. Worley Brown Club and Douglas County Club break ground on new teen centers

Douglas County Groundbreaking (above)

A. Worley Brown Teens

A. Worley Brown Groundbreaking

Douglas County Teens
In December, three locations of Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta (BGCMA) – the John P. & Joyce C. Stevens and Social Circle Clubs of Walton County and the Madison-Morgan County Club transferred to a new non-profit corporation, Boys & Girls Clubs of North Central Georgia.

With a growing need and increasing requests for Clubs to be established in the surrounding areas of Greene and Newton counties, organization leaders recognized the need for a stronger brand presence in the North Central Georgia region. As BGCMA continues its quest to serve children with the greatest impact and efficiencies, it consulted with the leadership members from these areas to determine the best option for future growth and service.

“We have several communities with the same need – a Boys & Girls Club,” said Harris Warbington, Board Chair for Boys & Girls Clubs of North Central Georgia. “In order to serve more children effectively, we needed a Boys & Girls Club non-profit corporation for this region. With this new organization focused solely on these communities, we will be able to better address common issues facing our children. We are excited to provide this opportunity to our families and have a place of hope and promise for our children.”

“Boys & Girls Clubs of North Central Georgia establishing its own non-profit organization will further the mission of Boys & Girls Clubs,” said William Lampley, president of BGCMA. “This is a growth opportunity for the new organization and an opportunity to change more lives and positively influence more Georgia communities.”

BGCMA now serves 26 Clubs in 11 counties, in addition to Camp Kiwanis and the Youth Art Connection (YAC). For questions about donations, the transition or other inquiries, contact Missy Dugan at (404) 527-7487. To contact Boys & Girls Clubs of North Central Georgia, call Paul Schultz at (770) 207-6279.

A New Era for Walton & Morgan County Clubs

On November 1, children and teens from seven Boys & Girls Clubs gathered at the Jennie Anderson Theatre to stand before peers, staff, donors and community leaders to compete in the seventh annual Malon D. Mimms Oratorical Competition.

One by one, children stood in front of a microphone, conquering a common fear: public speaking. Each student presented their interpretation of the Martin Luther King, Jr. “I Have a Dream” speech.

The competition is designed to provide elementary, middle and high school students with an opportunity to conquer their fear of public speaking by allowing them to research, prepare, creatively write and verbally present in a formal competition.

The presentations were judged in three categories including poise, content, and articulation. The ages competing ranged from 7 to 17. In the finals competition, first place winners in each category received $500 and a gold medal, second place prize received $375 and a silver medal, and third place prize received $250 and a bronze medal. Winners of the regional finals competition:

**Elementary School**  
**GOLD:** Turiya L. Michael A. Grant Club  
**SILVER:** Armoni D. James T. Anderson Club  
**BRONZE:** Jordan L. Newnan/Coweta Club

**Middle School**  
**GOLD:** Lawrence W. A.W. “Tony” Matthews Club  
**SILVER:** Parris B. Marietta 6th Grade Academy Club  
**BRONZE:** Amanda D. Michael A. Grant Club

**High School**  
**GOLD:** Reona W. Newman/Coweta Boys & Girls Club  
**SILVER:** Jasmine T. A.W. “Tony” Matthews Club  
**BRONZE:** Uzziah H. Michael A. Grant Club

The oratorical competition was originated by BGCMA Board member Michael Grant, and named in honor of Malon D. Mimms for the support he has given BGCMA over the years.
Lowe’s Heroes Give Hope to Community Kids

In October, more than 130 volunteers from metro Atlanta Lowe’s stores worked for two full days on Club improvements, including painting, laying tile, adding molding to classrooms and bathrooms, and installing new sinks, washers and dryers in three BGCMA Clubs – East DeKalb, W.W. Woolfolk and Warren/Holyfield. Lowe’s partnered with BGCMA as part of their Lowe’s Heroes program to ultimately provide a cleaner, safer environment for children.

Lowe’s Heroes is a company-wide volunteer initiative that offers Lowe’s employees the opportunity to work on a project in their own neighborhood, helping to make their communities better places to live, work and play.

The largest transformation took place at the East DeKalb Boys & Girls Club, one of the smallest facilities that was built in 1978 and needed major renovations. Lowe’s put their heart and soul into giving this clubhouse a major face-lift and turning it into a place the children could be more excited to visit every day. They installed new carpet, an entire kitchen with new appliances, painted the interior and exterior and extended the outside basketball court, among many other things. In addition, they put extra attention towards renovating a special place in the Club for teen members, so Pamela Nealey, Executive Director, could recruit more teens from the community. The project totaled work and materials worth more than $30,000.

The Club kids and staff members were thrilled, and the Lowe’s employees were overjoyed to be able to make such a huge improvement for kids in their community.

“This project meant so much to me and the Club kids,” said Pamela. “We have one of the smallest and oldest Clubs, and for Lowe’s to make the repairs, spend the time and volunteer hard labor—well, it just makes a big difference. Our Club is now updated, safer and an all around livelier place to come every day. We are sincerely grateful to Lowe’s and everyone who helped at all three of our Clubs.”

In addition, BGCMA will receive an additional $50,000 from Lowe’s to conduct another large renovation at the East DeKalb Boys & Girls Club in 2010.

Lowe’s is a FORTUNE® 50 company with fiscal year 2008 sales of $48.2 billion and has more than 1,675 stores in the United States and Canada. For more information, visit Lowes.com/community.

To see the Lowe’s Heroes photos from the project, visit www.bgcma.org.
Announcements

Catherine Bass joins BGCMA as the new Director of Strategic Development. She will be responsible for major gifts, corporate giving and working with our new Fulton County Board of Directors. You can welcome Catherine and reach her at (404) 525-0246 or cbass@bgcma.org.

Mike Miller, Camp Director and veteran BGCMA employee, retired in December. Mike has been with BGCMA for more than 35 years and held a number of positions within the organization. He has been instrumental to the growth of the organization and he has been a great leader.

Mike said, “I am very proud of BGCMA, and I have worked with some of the best professionals in the movement. I grew up in a children’s home. I think one of the reasons I have been with BGCMA so long is the sense of family. I am going to miss you.” BGCMA will miss Mike as well, but looks forward to a continued friendship and cheering him on in his next endeavors.

Events Benefiting BGCMA Clubs!

For more information, visit www.bgcma.org

Youth of the Year
Sunday, January 24
3:00 p.m., reception
4:00 p.m., program
Georgia-Pacific Auditorium

Club Blue New Year’s Metromixer
Thursday, January 28
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
McCray’s Tavern, Smyrna GA

Oscar Night Annual Gala in Newnan, Georgia
Sunday, March 7
7:00 p.m.
Newnan Coweta County Airport, Hanger 45

National Boys & Girls Clubs Week
March 21–27

Marel Brown Creative Writing Event
Tuesday, April 13
6:00 p.m.
Egyptian Ballroom at The Fox Theatre

Your support makes all of this possible! To reduce costs for BGCMA, you can sign up to receive online updates. To sign up or to make your promise with a secure donation, visit us online at www.bgcma.org