



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE GULF COAST

PRESS RELEASE

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AMERICAN IDOL'S AMERICA GIVES BACK SUPPORTS
POWER HOUR AT THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF THE GULF COAST
Forest Heights Unit Awarded Grant to Assist with Homework Program

Gulfport, MS – Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast Forest Heights Unit was recently awarded the Power Hour Program Excellence Award. America Gives Back (AGB), the charitable foundation designated by the *American Idol* TV show, provided a \$10,000 award to only 15 Clubs nationwide in recognition of their outstanding implementation of Power Hour during the year, as well as their excellence in sustaining the program since the original grant ended.

Power Hour: Making Minutes Count is an interactive, after-school homework assistance program for children ages 5-18. Unlike assignments done in class, Power Hour work is conducted in a non-threatening and fun after-school environment using adults or older students, who serve as "Homework Helpers," to supervise completion of Club members' homework. This highly successful program helps young people come to view homework as an opportunity to learn to work independently, complete projects on time and feel positive about their accomplishments.

"We are thankful to AGB for supporting our efforts to utilize such a high-quality homework assistance program like Power Hour," stated Greg Gipson, Director of Operations for the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast. "We provide this at all our locations because we find that many of the children we serve simply do not have access to the resources necessary for successful homework completion, which is critical to their everyday academic success."

The Forest Heights Unit will be doing Power Hour along with its many other youth development programs in a new location. The 21,000 state of the art facility located at 201 Holly Street, Gulfport, is scheduled to open for the afterschool program on August 23, with a grand opening celebration open to the community on September 23.

For additional information about the Boys & Girls Club of the Gulf Coast please contact Michelle Wilson at 228-896-3770 or visit our website at www.bggulfcoast.org.

About Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast

In 2009, the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast had approximately 2500 registered members and served 1400 youth through the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast New Hope Program, which is a school based therapeutic behavioral facilitation program. Our mission is to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

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