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**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PHOTO ATTACHED: pictured from left to right, Greg Gipson, Director of Operations for BGCGC, Dr. Sue Matheson, Superintendent for the Pass Christian School District, accepting the Lee Kerley Dedication to Youth Award and Wes Fulmer, outgoing Corporate Board President for BGCGC.**

**October 5, 2010**

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**43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Inauguration and Awards Luncheon**  
*The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast honor board members,  
community members and employees for service and dedication*

**Gulfport, MS** – The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast hosted their Annual Inauguration and Awards Luncheon on October 5, 2010 at the IP Casino Resort and Spa in Biloxi, celebrating a year of outstanding achievements and new beginnings for the organization as well as the youth that they serve.

Dominique Howard, Youth of the Year for 2010, opened the ceremony with a welcome and invocation. Howard, a Pass Christian High School student and member of the Qatar Center at Pass Christian, later gave an inspirational speech of how her membership in the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast helped her excel in school and other areas of her life.

Highlights of the past year were presented by Wes Fulmer, Corporate Board President for the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast, which included the opening of three new facilities, the IP Center at North Bay in D'Iberville, the Hancock County Unit's new location at the Valena C. Jones Center in Bay St. Louis and the Forest Heights Center in Gulfport. This finalizes the rebuilding phase that was due in part to the destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. An additional project now underway is the construction of a Teen Center behind the Hancock County Unit's location, slated for completion by Summer 2011.

After the installation of the officers for 2010-2011, awards were given as follows: New Board Member Outstanding Volunteer of the Year, Erin Moseley; Outstanding Board Volunteer of the Year, Angie Juzang; Greater Gulfport Unit Board Volunteer of the Year, Sandy Talley; Pass Christian Unit Board Volunteer of the Year, Evelina Shmukler; East Harrison County Unit Board Volunteer of the Year, Sup. Windy Swetman III; Hancock County Unit Board Volunteer of the Year, Angela Sallis; Woman/Youth Volunteer of the Year, Susan Carron; Man/Youth Volunteer of the Year, Chris Fisher.

The Dynamic Group Award was given to the Greater Gulfport Unit Board. This year's Outstanding Supporter Award was given to Blacklidge Emulsions. The Norman E. Bess Leadership Award was given to Bay-Waveland Superintendent, Dr. Rebecca Ladner. The Lee Kerley Dedication to Youth Award was given to Pass Christian School District Superintendent, Dr. Sue Matheson.

To conclude the recognition ceremony, the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast awarded the Employee of the Year to Adrienne Davis, Program Director for the Hancock County Unit. Two new award categories were added last year to recognize individual's accomplishments with the New Hope Program. Angela Johnson was awarded this year's Most Improved Award and Dr. Miranda Jones was awarded New Hope Employee of the Year.

For additional information about the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast please contact Michelle Wilson or visit our website at [www.bgcgulfcoast.org](http://www.bgcgulfcoast.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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