



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE GULF COAST

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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44th 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 –Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast (BGCGC) hosted their Annual Inauguration and Awards Luncheon on October 4, 2011 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.

Aesha Coleman, Youth of the Year for 2011, opened the ceremony with a welcome and invocation. Coleman, a Biloxi High School student and member of the East Biloxi Unit, later gave an inspirational speech of how her membership in BGCGC helped her excel in school and other areas of her life.

This year, a representative from Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) was present to award two National Service Recognition Awards from BGCA. Joe Ethier, Regional Service Director for BGCA presented Angie Juzang with the BGCA National Medallion and Wes Fulmer with BGCA National Silver Medallion. These National Service Recognition Awards are given to only a select few individuals nationwide that display unusually devoted service to helping youth to achieve a fuller and richer life through the positive guidance and influence of the Boys & Girls Clubs.

Other awards were given as follows: New Corporate Board Member Volunteer of the Year, Brooke Shoultz; Corporate Board Volunteer of the Year, Gary Gray; Greater Gulfport Unit Board Volunteer of the Year, Mary Sue Caranna; Pass Christian Unit Board Volunteer of the Year, Steve & Sydney Wall; East Harrison County Unit Board Volunteer of the Year, Lynn Frisby; Hancock County Unit Board Volunteer of the Year, Jessica Lewis; Woman/Youth Volunteer of the Year, Margaret Taylor; Man/Youth Volunteer of the Year, Duane Wilson.

The Dynamic Group Award was given to the East Harrison County Unit Board. This year's Outstanding Supporter Award was given to the Silver Slipper Casino. The Norman E. Bess Leadership Award was given to Coast Coca-Cola Bottling Company Vice President & Division Manager, Dirk Barrient. The Lee Kerley Dedication to Youth Award was given to BGCGC Corporate Board member and Executive Vice President of Peoples Bank, Wes Fulmer.

To conclude the recognition ceremony, the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast awarded the Employee of the Year to Michelle Wilson. The New Hope Program's Program of Excellence awards went to Brandon Johnson and Sabrina Schepens 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.

About Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast

In 2010, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast had approximately 2800 registered members and served 1500 youth through 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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