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PRESS RELEASE

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**Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast Earns
21st Century Community Learning Center Grant For Two Additional Clubs
*The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast recognized for its dedication to youth,
education and families***

Gulfport, MS – The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast was recently awarded a 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant that will enhance the educational services for an extra 400 young people in D’Iberville and Gulfport. This will allow program fees up to \$125 to be waived for those members participating in the IP Center at North Bay and the Forest Heights Center. This is in addition to the grant awarded earlier this year to the East Biloxi Unit and Qatar Center at Pass Christian.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast received this competitive grant because of the experience and promise shown by its current successful after school learning programs. “This additional funding is an opportunity for students and their families to continue to learn new skills and discover new abilities after the school day has ended,” commented Greg Gipson, Director of Operations for the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast, “The focus of this program is to provide enrichment opportunities for children by offering tutorial services and academic enrichment activities that are designed to help students meet local and state academic standards in subjects such as language arts, reading and math.”

The 21st Century grant program officially began 11 years ago and, at that time, only school districts were eligible for funding. But grants are now available for other public and private organizations, including faith-based organizations. Presently, 21st Century Community Learning Centers support approximately 102 programs at 180 sites that serve over 15,000 students. Grant-funded projects include remedial education, tutoring, mentoring, limited-English proficiency programs, counseling, character education, leadership skills training, arts and recreational initiatives, career development and drug and violence prevention.

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 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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