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PRESS RELEASE

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MS Department of Mental Health Awards \$150,000 to the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast

Children and Families on the Coast benefit from the Behavioral Health Grant Program

Gulfport, MS – The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast (BGCGC) was awarded \$150,000 from the MS Department of Mental Health’s Behavioral Health Grant Program. This program was established in response to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill with funds received from BP to assist those in the affected area.

“We are pleased to partner with the MS Department of Mental Health in delivering these much needed services to a vast majority of youth and their families along the MS Gulf Coast,” stated Dr. David L. Spinks, Executive Director, BGCGC. “Utilizing the Behavioral Grant Program funds we will be able to continue to provide mental health services for our children and their families through our New Hope Program.” This program is comprised of degreed professionals from diverse backgrounds in psychology, social work and education. The New Hope Program has behavioral facilitators in the school districts of Harrison County, Stone County, Jackson County, Bay-Waveland, Biloxi and Pascagoula, in addition to the 5 BGCGC locations that serve Harrison and Hancock County youth.

Scott Sumrall, Director of Disaster Preparedness and Response for the MS Department of Mental Health, acknowledged the value of the partnership. “Kids are impacted by events like this in a very different way than adults,” commented Sumrall, “and we are glad to have an agency that has so much experience dealing with children and their families as a part of our effort to ensure that everyone affected by this spill has access to behavioral health assistance.”

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