



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE GULF COAST

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Open House Festivity for the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast
Community celebrates the opening of the Teen Center at the Hancock County Unit

Gulfport, MS – The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast will host a Grand Opening Celebration from 4:30pm-6pm on Tuesday, August 30. This is an opportunity for the community to tour the newly renovated Teen Center adjacent to the Hancock County Unit, at 310 Old Spanish Trail, Bay St. Louis. The renovation was the final step of construction made possible due to funds from the MS Development Authority and CDBG allocated to the City of Bay St. Louis. In the grant application the city proposed to lease the building to the BGCGC Hancock County Unit in order to provide quality afterschool and summer care for the youth of Hancock County.

Belinda Stewart Architects, P.A. was tasked with the renovation project to the old Vo-Tech Building built in 1956 for the Valena C Jones School. The 4,700 square foot building was used for Homemaking and Shop. “We designed the renovation to honor the original garage and classroom setting to fit the needs of the teens,” commented Maggie Bjorgum, Belinda Stewart Architects, P.A. “We restored the original steel windows but replaced the glass with insulated glass to make it more economical to heat and cool.” Many of the changes like adding a stage and projection screen were to accommodate the teens, ages 12 to 18. “While the wood (exposed structure) ceiling is original, we added colorful gypsum board clouds to accommodate lighting and to mitigate sound,” added Bjorgum. Even the outside was updated, space between the buildings will be used as a courtyard with benches and an added basketball court.

The community is invited to attend the grand opening where tours of the Teen Center and the Hancock County Unit will be provided.

For additional information about the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast please contact Michelle Wilson at 228-896-3770 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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