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**Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast to Participate
in 2011 ImageMakers National Photography Contest**
Photography by Club members will be on display for public viewing at Edgewater Mall, Biloxi

Gulfport, MS – Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast is joining a nationwide search to identify talented young artists. The competition is part of Boys & Girls Clubs of America's (BGCA) ImageMakers National Photography Contest. Edgewater Mall in Biloxi is hosting the exhibit of youth photography located by the Customer Service Desk and JCPenney, starting Monday, March 14. It will remain available for public viewing through Monday, March 21. The contest is part of a comprehensive initiative encouraging artistic skills, cultural enrichment and creativity in the medium of photography.

As a participant in the ImageMakers National Photography Contest, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast may submit members' photography in four age divisions and five categories, including color process, black-and-white process, alternative process, digital and photo essay. Selected photos will compete at the regional level; regional winners will be judged nationally. Twenty national winners will be named and their photography displayed in the ImageMakers National Photography Contest traveling exhibition and at special BGCA events throughout the year. Winning photographers will receive an award and letter of congratulations from BGCA President Roxanne Spillett. Regional finalists will receive a certificate of participation.

"By introducing members to photography, we are giving them the priceless opportunity to express themselves in creative and unusual ways," said Dr. David L. Spinks, Executive Director, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast. "We are very proud that one of our members, Katelyn Reinhart, is a 2010 National Winner of the ImageMakers National Photography Contest in her age category (10-12y) for her Alternative Process photo entitled "Chelsea."

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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