



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE ARTS AND CULTURAL ALLIANCE HAS VOTED THE ROBERT AND JOAN LEE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB IN VENICE "HANDS DOWN, THE BEST"

SARASOTA, Fla. (July 13, 2009) – The Arts and Culture Alliance has a new project and the Robert and Joan Lee Boys & Girls Club (BGC) of Venice is reaping the benefit. A creative team of ACA members was hard at work last week on a mural made up of handprints of 538 boys and girls enrolled in the summer program at the BGC of Venice. The mural, entitled "The BEST place on earth- HANDS Down" depicts a colorful rainbow together with each child's handprint labeled with the child's name and age.

Bonnie Kaiser, friend of the Club and member of the Arts and Culture Alliance who spear-headed the project said that the artists "wanted to do something to help with an 'artist viewpoint.' The colors make a rainbow, and the paint is permanent, so kids can come back and see how much they've grown." She added that they "hope to be able to add to this mural each year, in the summer."

In recognition of everyone involved with this project, Laurie Jones painted on the mural the logos for the Arts and Culture Alliance, Sherwin-Williams, Babe's Hardware, and the Boys & Girls Clubs. The 33 staff members will also have their handprints added, as well as members of the Arts and Culture Alliance who worked on the project.

Arts and Culture Alliance members who volunteered their time to help with the mural are Bonnie Kaiser, Tracey Viviano, Laura Bennawy, Carolyn Ledbetter, Drenna Rosenthal, Rhonda Fearn, Cindy Reynolds, Mary Moyer, Francine Milford, and Lynn Moseley.

About the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County:

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County have played an integral role in the Sarasota County community for more than 39 years, providing daily programs and services to more than 8,000 young people. The Mission of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County is to enable all young people, especially those that need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring and responsible citizens.