



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SARASOTA COUNTY HOSTS THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA'S NATIONAL FINE ART EXHIBIT OF THE SOUTHEAST REGION

SARASOTA, FL, March 19, 2009 – See through the eyes of children at the Boys & Girls Clubs' Regional Art Competition exhibit at Westfield Southgate Mall. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County has been chosen as the host of the annual Boys & Girls Clubs of America's National Fine Art Exhibit.

Out of 600 submissions from area Clubs in the southeast region, 37 were selected by a panel of judges in the media and fine art fields including Lou Schultz, owner of Canvas Café; James Dean, Dean of Admissions, Ringling College of Art & Design; Cliff Roles Actor, columnist, radio host and emcee; and Julie Milton, Publisher, *Scene Magazine*. "The Arts programs' conduction by our Clubs is certainly giving our youngsters opportunities to showcase their extraordinary talents," says Mack Reid, President and CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County.

Sarasota's own member, Gregory Swain, of the Roy McBean Boys and Girls Clubs in Newtown won in the 16 to 18-year-old category for mixed media. "In the eight years that Greg has been a member of the Club, he's developed from a quiet, shy kid to a leader," says Fred Monix, Unit Manager of the Roy McBean BGC. Submissions were grouped based on age and medium. Finalists will be entered in the National Exhibit in Atlanta, GA.

The exhibit runs March 23 through March 29 at the Westfield Southgate Mall in Sarasota. For malls hours of operation, go to www.westfield.com/southgate. For additional information about the exhibit, call Tamara Davis Chapman at 366-3911.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County have played an integral role in the Sarasota County community for more than 37 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 inspire and enable all young people, especially those that need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring and responsible citizens.