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### WELCOME!

Welcome to the first 2007 edition of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County newsletter. The Club will be sending out print Newsletters quarterly, and a E-Newsletter monthly that will include exciting news about Club programs, events and, of course, our members. If you are not signed-up for the e-Newsletter please visit our new and improved website at [www.boysandgirlsclubs.com](http://www.boysandgirlsclubs.com) to sign up! We encourage you to forward this to friends and colleagues who may be interested in helping our Club, and we appreciate your continued support.

### Volunteer of the Month



The Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County didn't have to go far to find the Volunteer of the Month — his office is right across the street on Fruitville Road at LeBlanc Studios. Although he spends as much time in the BGC office as his own, Stephen LeBlanc – President/Owner of LeBlanc Studios says he volunteers his time because “It's the right thing to do”. Stephen just recently chaired the Kids Night Out for '06 and has agreed to chair the '07 event as well. “We are thrilled to have such a dedicated and talented individual to help the BGC”, states Mack Reid, President/CEO of the Club. Stephen not only donates his time and energy to the Club, but also has been extremely generous in allowing his staff to donate their time in helping the Club with their website, newsletters, photography, etc... Please stop by LeBlanc Studios and show your support to the Club by thanking Stephen for his time.

### Women Leadership Council

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County are creating a new volunteer committee called the Women's Leadership Council. This committee is comprised of outstanding women in the community who want to further the mission of the Boys & Girls Club and increase awareness and programs in Fine Arts, Etiquette, and Career Preparation. To learn more, please call Veronica Brandon Miller at 941-366-3911 ext. 126 or [vmiller@boysandgirlsclubs.com](mailto:vmiller@boysandgirlsclubs.com).

### Volunteers Honored at Luncheon

On November 4<sup>th</sup>, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County held a special luncheon to recognize all of the volunteers who have generously donated their time and support in helping to make sure the Club doors are always open. At the event, Dr. Richard Vinton and Eugene Hoeffler were named Volunteers of the Year. Both of these gentlemen, for years, have come to the Lee Wetherington Club daily to mentor and provide tennis instruction to members. Their service and dedication to the youth of Sarasota County goes above and beyond volunteerism. We thank them both for their continued service, as well as the many other volunteers who continue to teach and mentor the Club members and generously donate their time and wisdom.



We would like to especially thank Stonewood Grill & Tavern and their wonderful staff, who generously donated all of the food and service to help us honor our priceless volunteers. We encourage you to thank them for their generosity by visiting them at 1894 Stickney Point Road in Sarasota.

## Huge Success at Kids Night Out!



The 3rd Annual Kids' Night Out was held on November 17th and was a huge success for the Clubs. Almost 400 guests were greeted at the door with a glass of champagne and

appetizers prepared by Club members participating in our Culinary Arts Program. They were then joined by 100 Club members for a delectable dinner prepared by Morton's. Through the efforts of the Committee, which was chaired by Stephen LeBlanc, the event raised \$200,000 for the Clubs operations through sponsorships, ticket sales and silent and live auctions. **Be sure to mark your calendars for the 4th Annual Kids' Night Out on November 8, 2007!** Please contact Cheryl McDuffee at 941-366-3911 x121 or e-mail [cmcduffee@boysandgirlsclubs.com](mailto:cmcduffee@boysandgirlsclubs.com) for information on becoming a sponsor of this event or serving on the committee.

## Partner of the Month

kitchens ▶ direct



We are thrilled to announce that the first Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County's Partner of the Month is Kitchens Direct. Kitchens Direct put their heart and "service first attitude" before anything – which has earned

them a solid reputation as the place to go for dream kitchens, bathrooms, entertainment centers and work spaces. But they also put their heart into the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County. "We are thrilled to be able to give back to the community, and to actually help make a difference in the life of a child", states Tony Zanoni, President and Owner of Kitchens Direct.

With the leadership of Tony Zanoni, Kitchen's Direct has generously donated all the cabinetry in the Lee Wetherington Club and Administration offices, and has spearheaded many fundraising events for the Club.

Please check out their website at [www.kitchensdirectofsarasota.com](http://www.kitchensdirectofsarasota.com) or call 941-373-6940 to check out their services. And most importantly – please tell them "Thank You" for helping the community and the children at the Boys & Girls Club.

## Capital Campaign

We are in the final stretches of raising money to build a Boys & Girls Club in Venice. We still need to raise close to \$600,000 by the end of the year to ensure that we can open the Club's doors in January 2008 without a mortgage.

The Venice Capital Campaign's most recent gifts and naming opportunity came from Ms. Betty Scott with a generous gift of \$75,000, which makes her total contribution \$150,000 and has



made another outstanding pledge of \$150,000 over the next 3 years to help name the Food and Nutrition Center and the Kitchen. In addition, Ms. Dorothy Gelston has generously donated \$25,000 towards the campaign. "It is with the leadership of these supporters that we are steps closer to achieving the dream of having a Boys & Girls Club in Venice, and helping those children that need us most", states Veronica Brandon Miller, Vice President of Resource Development. There are many naming opportunities available, so please call Veronica at 941-366-3911 ext. 126 or [vmiller@boysandgirlsclubs.com](mailto:vmiller@boysandgirlsclubs.com).

## Alumni of the Month



Bill Cosby... Neil Diamond... Denzel Washington. What do all of these people and millions more throughout America have in common? They are all alumni of Boys & Girls Club. But we have our own star right here in Sarasota – Brian

Wynne, Regional Manager for First Watch Restaurant Group. Brian organized getting First Watch to adopt families for the holidays. "Being one of 7 Children, the Club has helped me a lot, and now I want to give back to the kids at the Club who need help the most – especially during the holiday season", states Wynne. "It's important for our children to see local successful individuals in real life situations – to inspire them, and we are very appreciative of all the support we receive from Brian", states Dawn Page, Area Director for the Clubs.

If you are an alumni of the Boys & Girls Clubs – please call Tonya Huber @ 941-366-3911 x101 or e-mail [thuber@boysandgirlsclubs.com](mailto:thuber@boysandgirlsclubs.com). We are coordinating Alumni get-togethers and would like to include you!

## Fun at the Clubs



### **Kid's had a Great Holiday!**

During the kid's holiday party, more than 300 youth were served a wonderful holiday meal and received at least two gifts to take home with them. As the support of the community grows, so does the reach of this party for Club members thanks to the generosity and support of our many volunteers. For some of these children, this was the only holiday celebration they will have.

For the sixth year, Sam Seltzer's opened its doors to 150 deserving Club members to help them celebrate the holiday season. They not only provided lunch, but also made sure that each child went home with a gift. Sam Seltzer's continues to support

these underserved youth each year by hosting this party. Even Santa Claus made a guest appearance. Thank you to Sam Seltzer's for your commitment to the youth of Sarasota County.

On November 18<sup>th</sup>, more than 100 volunteers gathered together at the Roy McBean Club to create 800 baskets full of food, toys and love for families in disadvantaged circumstances throughout Sarasota. The event was spearheaded by Rod Khleif of the Tiny Hands Foundation – who single-handedly donated all the money to coordinate this program. Many families throughout Sarasota County, not only Club families, were able to enjoy a bountiful Thanksgiving Dinner.

### **New Partnership Helps Clubs Children**

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County have recently received 3 scholarships from Take Stock in Children, a wonderful organization that helps low-income children succeed by providing a 4-year college tuition scholarship. In addition the program offers a volunteer mentor who meets the child at his or her school for one hour a week to provide academic support and motivation, continuous monitoring and intervention services, the active engagement of parents in the child's academic and personal development, and career and educational counseling.

If you would like to know more about Take Stock in Children, or to sign up to be a mentor, please visit [www.takestockinchildren.com](http://www.takestockinchildren.com).

### Looking for Furniture

Are you or your office about to redecorate and retire some furniture that still is in good condition? Please think of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County. We are looking for bookcases, chairs, artwork, etc...

### Save the Date

**Feb. 24th** — Sarasota Rotary Club presents Ed Pierce Roast

March 18th — ALUMNI PICNIC at the Lee Wetherington Club

March 28th — Celebrity Scoop at Coldstone Creamery

March 31st — Kids' Fishing Clinic hosted by Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission

April 5th — Saving Lives Lunch

May 5th — Annual Golf Challenge at Rolling Green Golf Club

For more information, please go to [www.boysandgirlsclubs.com](http://www.boysandgirlsclubs.com) or call 941-366-3911.

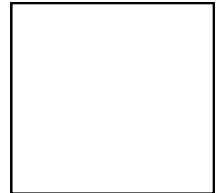


P.O. Box 4068, Sarasota, FL 34230

### Thank You to Our Supporters

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County rely on grants, through both federal and state governments and local foundations to sustain our Club programs. We would like to thank the following foundations and organizations for their support of these Club programs:

- JC Penny After-School Fund for providing scholarships for youth to attend the Clubs.
- Regal Entertainment Group for providing free movies and transportation to Club members during their Regal Free Family Film Festival.
- Wilson-Wood Foundation for supporting the Culinary Arts Program at the Roy McBean Club.
- Publix Supermarket Charities for helping fund the Project Learn/Power Hour programs.
- Fifth Third Bank Foundation for their support of the Hispanic Outreach Program.
- Allen Wirtz and Jo Bowen Nobbe Educational Enrichment Program of the Community Foundation of Sarasota County to support the 2007 Spring After-School Program.



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