



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF SARASOTA COUNTY**

## **News Release**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **VITALE FAMILY OPENS THEIR HOME AND THEIR HEARTS TO BOYS & GIRLS CLUB MEMBERS**

*Sports legend Dick Vitale gives ten youth from the Boys & Girls Clubs a holiday to remember*

SARASOTA, Fla. – December 14, 2009 – Sports Legend, Dick Vitale’s family home was bursting with joy on Tuesday evening when ten very good children from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County received thoughtful gifts from the Vitale family and Santa Claus. This annual holiday party has become a tradition in the Lakewood Ranch home of Lorraine and Dick, an ESPN Television sports analyst, writer, philanthropist and long-time supporter of The Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County (BGCSC).

Dick Vitale’s enthusiasm to help children achieve goals and aspirations is as great as his passion for basketball, and this passion manifests to his family members as well. “I hope that I inspire others to give back and get involved. People who are fortunate enough to make it in life should be willing to share some time with youngsters. The smiles on their faces are the best presents of all.”

Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County President/CEO J. Mack Reid praises the Vitales for their generosity and thoughtfulness. “Lorraine and Dick set a wonderful philanthropic example for our youth and others in the community. For many years they have opened their home and their hearts and made a huge impression on the children they have entertained. The only presents many of the young guests will receive this holiday season are the ones given to them by the Vitale family.”

The Vitale family has generously donated a total of \$60,000 for college scholarships in the last 12 years. In addition to personal contributions, Vitale has helped raise more than \$1,000,000 in support of the BGCSC.

Photos (left to right):

Vitale Christmas (1)— Front row: Whitney Stewart, Austyn Munsell, Sydney Blyden, Chelsey DeSoto, Ryan Sforzo. Middle Row: Whitney Stewart, Jordan Blyden, Dick Vitale, Robert Handy, Santa Claus, Lorraine Vitale. Back Row: Morgan Perry, La’Destenee Orser.

Vitale Christmas (2)—Austyn Munsell and Ryan Sforzo.

Vitale Christmas (3)—Front Row: Sydney Blyden. Second Row: Chelsey DeSoto, Austyn Munsell, Whitney Stewart, Jordan Blyden. Back Row: Robert Handy, Dick Vitale, La’Destenee Orser.

#### **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.

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