



## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Contact: Tamara Davis Chapman**

**Office: 941-366-3911, ext. 121**

**Cell: 941-894-5564**

### **BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF SARASOTA COUNTY CELEBRATE 40 YEARS OF HOPE AND OPPORTUNITY**

SARASOTA, Fla. (February 10, 2010) – For many, 1970 harks back to bell bottoms, platform shoes and peace signs. For a number of Sarasotans, this forty year milestone calls to memory the establishment of the Boys Club of Sarasota County. Through the years we've grown up, the Boys Club is now the Boys AND GIRLS CLUBS serving over 8,000 children and youth in Sarasota County, and we've modernized the nostalgic bell bottoms, platform shoes and peace signs.

There is no better place to celebrate this milestone anniversary than at the circus. This Monday, Feb. 15, more than 200 kids will attend Sarasota Circus. "Thanks to a group of donors led by David and Jane Taylor, many of our kids will have the opportunity to attend the circus with tickets provided by generous donors. Sarasota Circus has been a friend of the Club for many years, and we are thrilled to celebrate our milestone with such a mainstay of our community." says President Mack Reid. Reid has been involved with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County since its inception in 1970.

#### **History:**

In 1965, a group of compassionate individuals met at the Captain's Table restaurant to discuss how to improve quality of life for our children. Initially, there were only two or three people involved, but within weeks, the group had grown considerably and it was decided to start a Boys Club. The original group included Jack House, John Saba Sr., Jack Toale, L.W. Horning, Wells Purmort, Marie Langer, Bob Johnson, Helene Morris and Arthur Goldberg among others. Many of the original leaders are still involved with the BGCSC and with our community.

During the next five years, the vision of a few became a reality. Although views changed over the years from giving just boys opportunities, to boys and girls, the vision for youth - remains unchanged—to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

What started as a dream in 1965 is now an integral part of our community. All efforts to grow the club to 10 locations have been steadfast. Thousands of boys and girls have walked through the Clubs since 1970, and each has walked back into the community as a more productive and enriched citizen, because the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County was, and still is the POSITIVE PLACE for kids.

#### **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 40 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 who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring and responsible citizens.