



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### ***\$10,000 Grant from the Walmart Foundation Offers Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County a "Bright Spot" Reading Room***

**Sarasota, FL (June 22, 2010)** – The Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County (BGCSC) has received a \$10,000 grant to launch a new reading initiative that promotes both educational and leisure reading for adolescents. The Walmart Foundation's Bright Spot for Reading initiative for adolescent readers will help create a reading center, provide training for staff and encourage relationships to ensure the success of young members.

Nationally, the Walmart Foundation awarded Boys & Girls Clubs of America with \$1.5 million to help establish reading Bright Spots at 100 Clubs across the U.S.

Beginning this summer, the Bright Spot Reading Center will feature books geared at youth ages 10 to 15 and will include programming to encourage adolescents to read more and develop a more positive attitude toward reading. The following activities are scheduled this summer:

- **Book Club:** BGCSC youth participants choose books to read and discuss. If the book has been made into a movie, there will be a movie review and book comparison.
- **Library Visits:** Participants will visit the local library once a week, apply for a library card and be given time to explore the library and check out books.
- **Game Night:** Provide teens with board games, cards, charades and more. Refreshments are also made available.
- **Spoken Word:** An "open mic" night setting will give youth an opportunity to show off their literary skills through poetry, rap and monologues.
- **Tackling the Issues:** Special forums where specific issues such as bullying, racism and online safety will be discussed. These forums will provide a safe and open venue where teens can be informed and learn important tips that will help them in today's society.

"The Walmart Foundation's Bright Spot for Reading Initiative is essential in preparing youth for academic and life success," said Dawn Page, Area Director of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County. "We are grateful to The Walmart Foundation for the opportunity to create an environment that will encourage and allow our youth to enjoy and develop an affinity for reading."

In addition to the Club's new Bright Spot Reading Center, Boys & Girls Clubs of America's teen web site [www.myclubmylife.com](http://www.myclubmylife.com) will serve as a resource for the Club to promote the reading initiative; highlight age-appropriate books and book reviews; and encourage teens and tweens to read more and share their reading experiences with others. Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County will also strengthen existing and develop new relationships with local libraries to enhance its programs and services.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County provides program opportunities for thousands of boys and girls each year. Children and youth interested in joining the Club, learning more about The Walmart Foundation Bright Spot for Reading Initiative or other youth programs can contact Dawn Page at (941) 366-7940 visit [www.boysandgirlsclubs.com](http://www.boysandgirlsclubs.com).

**About 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 40 years, providing daily programs and services to thousands of 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, responsible citizens. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County is the 2009 Non-Profit of the Year recipient, awarded by the Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce.

**About Philanthropy at Walmart**

Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are proud to support the charitable causes that are important to customers and associates in their own neighborhoods. The Walmart Foundation funds initiatives focused on education, workforce development, economic opportunity, environmental sustainability, and health and wellness. From Feb. 1, 2009 through Jan. 31, 2010, Walmart and the Walmart Foundation gave more than \$512 million in cash and in-kind gifts globally, \$467 million of which was donated in the U.S. To learn more, visit [www.walmartfoundation.org](http://www.walmartfoundation.org).

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