



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF SARASOTA COUNTY**

News Release

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Dick Vitale Presents \$1,000 each to Five Deserving Boys & Girls Club Members

SARASOTA, FLA. (July 19, 2011) More than 600 young members of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County will fill the Lee Wetherington BGC Gymnasium to see ESPN Television sports analyst, writer and philanthropist, Dick Vitale, present a total of \$5,000 in college scholarships— \$1,000 each to five outstanding Club members bound for college. As long-time supporters of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County, the Vitale family has generously donated a total of \$70,000 for scholarships in the last 14 years. In addition to personal contributions, Vitale has helped raise more than \$1,000,000 in support of the BGCSC.

The Dick Vitale Scholarship recipients were chosen by BGCSC staff for outstanding leadership qualities. Their names, college choices, Club affiliation and interests follow:

Gene Matthews Club:

Dalena Nguyen graduated North Port High and will study Pre-Clinical Health Science at the University of Central Florida. She is a first generation college student and a bilingual student, fluent in English and Vietnamese. She has been a member of the Gene Matthews Boys & Girls Club member for two years and worked as Power Hour Assistant during her senior year. She is a member of the Key Club and enjoys art.

Robert and Joan Lee Club:

Caroline Vale graduated North Port High School and will study Psychology at the University of Central Florida. Caroline has been a member of the BGC for six years and participated in the BGC Keystone Club for three years. She enjoys modeling, Karate, is a member of FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) and supports Schools for Schools which benefits "Invisible Children in Uganda."

Roy McBean Club:

Omar Woodard graduated top of his class from Riverview and plans to study Mechanical Engineering at Florida Agriculture and Mechanical University. He played football at Riverview for four years and ran track for two years. He is a member of Greater Hurst Chapel A.M.E. and the BGC Keystone Club. Omar has been a member of the Roy McBean Club for six years and assisted at the front desk of the Club his senior year.

Lee Wetherington Club:

Quay Williams graduated Booker High School and will attend State College of Florida studying Business and Management. He enjoys playing sports and hanging out with family and friends. He is a member of the BGC Keystone Club and volunteers at Boys & Girls Club. He also coaches at Pop Warner. He played varsity football, participated in the College Out Reach program, A.M.E., Y.P.D. Church and is a Music Manager.

Emily Wells graduated Booker High School and will attend Memphis College of Art studying Illustration. Her interests are art, children and charity work. Emily was BGC Keystone President and volunteers hundreds of hours. She says that the Boys & Girls Club “saved her life.”

J. Mack Reid, president/CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County is really proud of these teens’ accomplishments and praises the Vitale family for their generosity and commitment to youth. “For many years, Dick and Lorraine have encouraged young people to succeed. They have made a major impact on each child whose life they have touched.”

Dick Vitale and his family not only give monetarily, they give their time and energy in many respects. “The kids at the Boys & Girls Clubs work hard to be champions, and I’m happy to have the opportunity to work with them and to help them continue on this path to success,” says Vitale.

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 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.