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News Release

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Walk for the Kids is Saturday, September 17 at the Lee Wetherington Boys & Girls Club

A Community Event to Support Keeping Kids off the Streets and in a Safe Place

SARASOTA, FLA. (September 14, 2011) – The most dangerous time in a child’s life are the hours of 3-7 p.m. when parents are still working and kids are out of school. Walk for the Kids is on September 17th at the Lee Wetherington Boys & Girls Club on Fruitville Rd. and is a community event to help communicate the need for a safe and enriching place for kids to go after school. Not only does the Club provide a place to be during this dangerous time, they also provide a world-class Club experience that assures success is within reach of every young person who walks through the doors, with all members on track to graduate from high school with a plan for the future, demonstrating good character and citizenship, and living a healthy lifestyle.

Sheriff Tom Knight, Walk for the Kids spokesperson, recently indicated that every day, his officers see someone in trouble. He supports Walk for the Kids and the benefit of having a Boys & Girls Club in our community, because it helps to keep kids away from danger. “I would much rather see a teen safe in an enriched environment, like the Boys & Girls Club, than out on the streets, where my officers see trouble that teens may encounter,” says Sheriff Knight. “The walk would not be a success without the great support from our community and the financial support from our sponsors,” says Bill Sadlo, President and COO BGCSC. “Special thanks to Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP as our Presenting Sponsor.” The event had over 30 businesses participate this year, including Premier sponsors: Coca-Cola; Cool Today; Dr. Tracy Vasile, D.O.; Gulf Coast The Foundation of Community; Joe Ziomek; Lee Wetherington Homes; and Florida Clinical Research Center, LLC.

Kids’ participation in Walk for the Kids is free to the entire community. The walk is a 3k held at the Lee Wetherington Boys & Girls Club on Fruitville Rd. The Walk promotes teambuilding through an online website—individuals create teams to walk and raise money to support children who need a Boys & Girls Club most.

BGCSC has made it easy for everyone to be involved in Walk for the Kids. Here’s what you can do:

- **Walk as an Individual or Start a Team:** Ask friends and family to rally for kids and support life-enhancing programs of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County.
 - **Individual Walker:** Register online and get a Walk for the Kids T-shirt and a customized, personal “Walk for the Kids” web page, where you can track your donations and send reminder emails.
 - **Walk Team:** A team can be made up of family, friends and neighbors, or form a corporate, department or organization team. The entry fee for the walk is only \$25 per person and FREE for children under 18 years old.
- **Make a Donation:** Search for an individual walker! If you know someone who is participating in the Walk, you can go to www.walkforthekids.com and support that individual through a donation.
- **Don’t know anyone walking?** Online search BGC Keystone Team: The BGC Keystone Team will walk in support of their Club peers. BGC Keystone Club is a unique teen leadership development experience that provides activities in three focus areas: academic success, career preparation and community service.
- **Just come out and cheer the walkers!** Between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., there will be FREE activities and food for everyone—water slides, dunk tank, climbing wall, arts and crafts, face painting, hot dogs, popcorn and more.

It's no secret that America's youth need our help. Consider these statistics:

- 15-19 year olds account for more than 20 percent of violent crimes in the United States, and in 2005, close to 10 percent of youth aged 12-17 years old were current illicit drug users.
- Among children and teens, 16%, or nearly 9 million youth, are considered overweight.

Our young people are future workers, voters and community members. They are our neighbors. When we fail kids, we fail our communities and ourselves.

For more information about Walk for the Kids, visit www.walkforthekids.com or email Tamara Chapman at tchapman@boysandgirlsclubs.com. You may also call BGCSA directly at (941) 366-3911, ext. 126.

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 41 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.