



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF SARASOTA COUNTY**

News Release

Contact: Tamara Davis Chapman

Office: 941-366-3911, ext. 121

Cell: 941-400-5257

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF SARASOTA COUNTY ANNOUNCES NEW VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS

SARASOTA, Fla. (November 29, 2011) – Leisa Smith may be new to Sarasota County, but certainly not new to Boys & Girls Clubs. Strong in internal operations and programs, Smith is a BGC veteran of 24 years. She most recently headed the Boys & Girls Clubs of Coastal Carolina as the Executive Director. In This capacity, she oversaw three Club sites and an outreach program offered through Juvenile Structured Day Program (for kids that get suspended from school) and Juvenile Restitution (for kids that get court ordered to do community service).

Smith started as a part-time front desk clerk at a Club in New Albany, Indiana, near her hometown, while attending college at Indiana University Southeast. She began full-time in 1990 as a program director in Louisville, Kentucky, where she gained expertise in all facets of program development and management from working daily with kids and managing Club operations. In 1993, Smith moved to Hobe Sound, Florida, where she served as Education Director, Club Director and Director of Operations for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Martin County. By 2000, she became an executive director in Vero Beach, Florida, where she opened the first Boys & Girls Club in Indian River County. While there, she increased operating revenue with the help of a successful capital campaign, oversaw construction of a new Club facility, opened two Club locations, merged an existing teen program into the daily operations of a BG Club and tripled the annual Club membership.

A native of Indiana, Smith graduated from Indiana University South East in New Albany, Indiana with a bachelor degree in general studies and a minor in psychology & supervision. In 1999, Smith completed her master of public administration at Nova South Eastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Smith is the recipient of several awards, including Boys & Girls Clubs of America – Southeast Regional Youth Development Professional of the Year, Robert W. Woodruff Fellowship. She achieved the Management Professional Level of the BGCA Academy of Boys & Girls Clubs Professionals and has most recently completed the 2011 Global Institute for Leadership Development.

In her new role as Vice President of Operations of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County, Smith will oversee all aspects of operations for the BGCSC's after-school and summer programing and staff management and communications for the four Club facilities in

Sarasota County and the six 21st Century Community Learning Centers at area elementary and middle schools in high-risk, low-income neighborhoods. The current BGCSC annual memberships are at 5,000 between the ages of 6 and 18 years old.

For additional information, call Tamara Chapman at (941) 366-3911, ext. 121.

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. The vision is to provide a world-class Club experience that assures success is within reach of every young person who walks through our 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.