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PRESS RELEASE

Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County receives grant to expand prevention programs

BRADENTON – The Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County received a \$5,000 grant from the Weichel Family Fund of the Manatee Community Foundation. The award will be used to expand prevention programs to serve additional youth in more venues in order to combat growing community risk factors. The programs are:

- SMART Moves courses, helping our children gain knowledge about the negative consequences of using illegal and prescription drugs, tobacco, alcohol and other substances that are mind and mood altering.
- Targeted Outreach, juvenile delinquency and gang prevention strategies that help youth follow a straighter path.
- Wise Guys & Smart Girls, life skills courses focusing on abstinence-based pregnancy and STD prevention.

Through comprehensive prevention programming, Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County has the strongest impact on their Club members. When the Club Directors were polled in December of, there was only one reported pregnancy in over 2,500 Club members. According to the Manatee County Sheriff's Department, there was a 10% reduction in crime in the local neighborhoods when the school-based Harllee Club opened. With help from the Weichel Family Fund of the Manatee Community Foundation, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County is able to deepen the positive impact on the community.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County serves over 2,500 youth at six locations (Harllee Middle School, Southeast High School, Bradenton, East Bradenton, DeSoto and Palmetto).

For more information, please call 761-2582 or visit www.bgcmanatee.org.



Mission: To enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.