



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF GREEN BAY

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More Than Just A Place to Hang Out - Boys & Girls Club of Green Bay Receives Two National Program Awards

For Immediate Release

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Green Bay, WI- The Boys & Girls Club of Green Bay (BGCGB) was recently honored with two national program awards during the Boys & Girls Clubs of America's (BGCA) annual conference in Orlando, Fla. Each year, more than 4,000 Boys & Girls Clubs across the country are eligible to be recognized for program excellence in a variety of categories.

The Thomas H. Lutsey Unit at 1451 University Avenue was awarded the Best Comprehensive Club program in the \$500,000 and above budget category, which means the Green Bay organization is in the same competitive track as much larger metro markets. More than 1,600 youths a year participate in the Lutsey Unit's age-based program offerings, family engagement activities, and personalized services for teens. One of these, the Teen Advisory Council, is a youth leadership program designed to encourage teen citizenship through a rigid code of conduct and community service. Green Bay teens served hot cocoa on cold days at bus stations, provided companionship to elderly nursing home residents, and served meals to shelter families after a Hunger Walk. In all, they dedicated more than 980 hours of volunteer service in these and other community outreach projects.

The Boys & Girls Club of Green Bay's Traveling Artists program received the top award in the \$500,000 and above budget category for program excellence in The Arts. Traveling Artists is a summer program that merges community-based art making sessions with bicycle riding. Club members ride to community locations throughout the summer to draw, paint, and create nature inspired artwork. This program provides opportunities for Club members to develop creative expression skills engage in regular exercise and learn bicycle safety. "My favorite part of the Traveling Artists was when we got to go to the East River Trail because my dad, grandpa and I always went there," said Zoridia, age 11, BGCGB Club Member. Last summer, 37 youth participated in the Traveling Artists program.

Only 21 total awards are given nationally to Clubs through a sponsorship by the MetLife Foundation. Since 2003, the Boys & Girls Club of Green Bay has received 18 national honor and merit (2nd place) awards, making Green Bay the most decorated Club in existence regardless of longevity, budget or market size.

John Benberg, Executive Director, is grateful for the recognition but keeps everything in perspective. “While the prestige is appreciated, our work here at the Club is about changing lives, and we are obviously doing wonderful things in that regard. The fact we’ve earned more national program excellence awards than anyone else anywhere is truly an honor for our entire community, and it also speaks to the level of need we have here, so hopefully even more people will get involved now.”

Kevin Konkol, Director of Operations for BGCGB agrees. “Every year, I am amazed by the unwavering commitment of our volunteers and staff to provide the very best for the kids of our community. They dedicated countless nights and weekends to make it possible. I am incredibly proud of the programs our Club develops and delivers to our kids - who would otherwise go without the fundamental support system every child deserves and needs to be successful.”

To learn more about these and other life changing programs, please call 920-494-7090 or visit www.bgcgb.org any time.

About the Boys & Girls Club of Green Bay

The Boys & Girls Club of Green Bay has served the youth in our community for over 40 years. The Club provides programs for more than 4,000 boys and girls annually in the areas of character and leadership development, educational enhancement, career preparation, health and life skills, the arts and sports, fitness and recreation for a \$10 annual membership.

For more information about national program awards contact John Benberg at 494-7090 ext 1020 during business hours.

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