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BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF CENTRAL ALABAMA – MAGGIE BROOKE RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION FROM BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA

BIRMINGHAM, AL - (May 5, 2014) - Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Alabama (BGCCA) board member Maggie Brooke received a national award on May 2nd in San Francisco at the Boys & Girls Clubs of America's (BGCA) national conference.

BGCA presented the W. Clement Stone Outstanding Achievement Award for an Individual to Maggie Brooke, who has been working with the organization locally since 1992. The W. Clement Stone Outstanding Achievement Award provides a method of recognizing exceptional performance and service of an individual local Area Council Committee member who has particularly distinguished themselves through areas such as promotion of the area council network, service on Area Council Committees, and service to their local club.

Brooke, says she was pleased to receive the award, was honored for several of her efforts, including implementing her idea to establish an annual Legislative Day at the local club houses.

"It has become a wonderful event and the area politicians appreciate the opportunity to learn more about our programs and the effect we're having on the lives of the youth who come to our clubs. That is one thing that I did that got national attention."

Her significant role fund-raising for the nine clubs in the Greater Birmingham area has also gained her national attention.

"In 2012 the BGCCA board of directors worked together to raise 2.3 million to construct the Tom & Gean Cleckler Teen Center. This 15,000+ sq. ft. facility opened its doors in May of 2013," she explained.

Of the children served by BGCCA, Brooke says, "I work hard for them and give so much of my time and resources because some of these children have nowhere to go, and some just come and have fun.

"Without Boys and Girls Clubs, a whole lot of kids would be falling through the cracks. Without a place to go after school, a lot of kids get in trouble. They need to have a place to go where they can make a good choice."

She added some kids start the after school program when they're 6 and stay until they're 18.

"For some it's their home away from home, and for some it's all they have. They form a bond with staff and it changes the course of their lives."

Brooke was elected Chairperson of the BGCCA Board in 2006, as well as leader of Alabama Alliance and Area Councils.

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About Maggie Brooke

Maggie Brooke is an outgoing Community Volunteer who is a very gracious person giving of her time, talents and energy for the causes and people who are near and dear to her heart. She is a leader among leaders. Maggie is the wife of Will Brooke and the mother of three wonderful children Will Jr., Alex, and Sally. She is a second generation Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Alabama board member, following in the footsteps of her father, the late John A. Williamson.

Mrs. Brooke has been a member of the Board of Directors for the BGCCA since 1992. She has served as a member of the Executive Human Resource, and her favorite Youth Scholarship Committees. She is currently the Chair of

Mrs. Brooke has been a member of the Board of Directors for the BGCCA since 1992. She has served as a member of the Executive, Human Resource, and her favorite Youth Scholarship Committees. She is currently the Chair of the Board Development Committee and Co-Chair of the Resource Development Committee. She has also served BGCCA as the 2nd Vice Chair, 1st Vice Chair, Chair-Elect and Chairperson of the Board of Directors.

Mrs. Brooke has become a dynamic leader of this organization. When she was elected Chairperson of the Board in 2006, she became the first female to lead the organization. During her time as Chair, she successfully led the board in a strategic planning session that created the most exciting and challenging plan for growth that the BGCCA has seen in its 112 year history. She has led the organization in its fundraising efforts and along with her brother Lex, she established the John A. Williamson Society for donors who give over \$10,000 to the BGCCA in one year. In 2009, Mr. and Mrs. Brooke generously donated the led gift of a half million dollars to the establishment of a new Teen Center for BGCCA and chose to name the building after the long term President/CEO of the organization Tom and Gean Cleckler instead of putting their own name on the building.

As leader of the Alabama Area Council, Mrs. Brooke led two of the most dynamic and well Area Council Annual Conferences in Alabama's history. In 2012, under Mrs. Brook's leadership the Alabama Area Council Hall of Fame was established with the first class of three inductees honoring over sixty-five years of services to the children of Alabama through BGC. Mrs. Brooke also established the first website devoted to information about the Alabama Alliance and Area Council as a place where parents, students, community members, and even potential donors can learn more about what BGC and the Area Council do to promote education, character and healthy lifestyles to the children throughout Alabama. In 2010, Mrs. Brooke led the Clubs in the state to establish their own annual Legislative Day at their local club houses. Clubs were encouraged to invite their local Senators and Representatives along with their Mayors, City Council Representatives, and other officials into their Clubs to meet their members, learn more about what our organization does to serve the community and participate in the daily activities. She encouraged staff to use outstanding Club members as tour guides to share their Club with the distinguished guests. At the end of the tour pictures were taken and each guest was given a piece of artwork designed by a Club member as a memento of their time with the Club.

Mrs. Brooke has been named Alabama Area Council Board Member of the Year twice once in 2006 and the second time in 2013. Mrs. Brooke has also received the Woman and Youth Award for her Outstanding Service to the Alabama Alliance and Area Council.

Mrs. Brooke's contacts at the local and state government level have been key to maintaining a \$900,000 grant for the BGC in Alabama. She has been willing on numerous occasions to do more than make a phone call, but take the time to personally visit the Governor, Speaker of the House, Attorney General, and numerous State Senators and Representatives sharing the story of BGC and the stories of our members and the great accomplishments of our members because of the work of the Clubs.

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Mrs. Brooke's concern and passion for this community is shown in her leadership positions with other nonprofits including YWCA of Central Alabama, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, United Way of Central Alabama and the Alabama Area Council and Alabama Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs.

In 2013, while chairing the Alabama Area Council and Alabama Alliance Boards, she and Will also served as Co-Chairs of the United Way of Central Alabama's Tocqueville Society.

Mrs. Brooke is a graduate of the University of Alabama with a degree in design.

About Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Alabama Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Alabama (BGCCA) exist to provide boys and girls ages six to 18 with a place to learn, grow, and succeed. The oldest Boys & Girls Club in the Southeast, BGCCA has been serving the children in the Birmingham and surrounding communities for 113 years. The Club currently has 9 clubs in 4 counties providing a safe, positive environment promoting Education, Character and Leadership Training, and Healthy Lifestyle Habits. www.BeGreatBirmingham.org

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