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## BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF CENTRAL ALABAMA (BGCCA) RECEIVES RECOGNITION FROM ALABAMA AREA COUNCIL

**BIRMINGHAM, AL - (August 10, 2015)** – The Alabama Alliance/Area Council of Boys & Girls Clubs annual meeting was held in Montgomery, August 6-7, at Embassy Suites Hotel. This event was hosted by Boys & Girls Clubs of the River Region. This two day conference provides a way for local Alabama board members to maintain their involvement with the Boys and Girls Club movement by exchanging information and discussing plans, programs, trends, common challenges and best practices with representatives from clubs around the state. Area Councils are frequently the vehicle through which ideas, suggestions and proposals flow to the national organization and the State Alliance exclusively promotes the social welfare of boys and girls as served by various Boys & Girls Clubs. Several BGCCA board members and staff were on hand for the conference.

This event concluded with a luncheon in which BGCCA won four awards:

- Coach Tom Cleckler, CEO/President of BGCCA was given two awards; **2015 Professional of the Year and 35 years of Dedicated Service** to young people in the Greater Birmingham area. Under Coach's leadership the Club has grown from one club serving approximately 200 boys in 1980 with an annual budget of less than \$50,000 to a multi-million dollar nonprofit with 9 Clubhouses serving more than 9,000 boys & girls in four counties.
- The BGCCA Board of Directors received an award for **2015 Board Team of the Year**. In 2013 during a board retreat the board members made a commitment to expand the organizations fundraising goals by acknowledging that resource development is everyone's responsibility. During the first year of the *Great Futures Campaign*, the board raised \$275,000 in corporate donations and individual gifts with an additional \$52,000 in new grants.
- Pell City BGC received an award for **2015 Program Impact Excellence – Sports, Fitness and Recreation** for a program called Survivor: The last clubber standing. The Survivor program includes a variety of interactive team and individual games that require both physical and mental participation.
- BGCCA received an award for **2015 Program Impact Excellence – Overall Programs**. This award was given in recognition of the increased statistics in all areas of the overall club experience based on the National Youth Outcome Initiative (NYOI) survey. According to the NYOI our club members ranked our programs good or great, while the program numbers are amazing, the impact of the programs are over the top.

For more information about BGCCA visit our website: [www.BeGreatBirmingham.org](http://www.BeGreatBirmingham.org).

About Alabama Alliance serves as a fundraising coalition for all the Boys & Girls Clubs of Alabama. The alliance's primary goal is to continue fiscal support for each organization on a state and national level.

About 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 114 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.

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