



# PRESS RELEASE

## **Groundbreaking Ceremony to Celebrate Building of New Boys & Girls Club in Lacoochee**

**Lacoochee, FL, May 8, 2013:** Boys & Girls Clubs and community leaders in Pasco County will break ground on May 8<sup>th</sup> at Stanley Park, in celebration of what will be a new Community Center that will house the Lewis Abraham Lacoochee Boys & Girls Club.

The multi-million dollar project will provide space for the youth served by Boys & Girls Clubs as well as a Premier Community Health Clinic and numerous other beneficial programs and services. Funded in large part by grants and community donations, the approximately 16,000 square foot facility will include state-of-the-art resources for families residing in the area.

The community of Lacoochee has been ranked as one of the poorest in the entire state of Florida and the once thriving area has faced many socioeconomic challenges over the years. Many families living in Lacoochee lack the resources to combat the challenges faced and children are not able to take advantage of the opportunities that would help them progress into becoming productive citizens.

“This is a huge gift for our kids and our organization,” said Jennifer Pearson-Yingling, Executive Director of Pasco County Boys & Girls Clubs. “We have outgrown the current facility and knowing that our Club Members will have a brand new, safe space to continue to learn and grow in is very reassuring for us.”

The program will begin at noon with a special introduction from Joe Marine, President of the Lacoochee Area Development Corporation. Construction will begin at the end of May 2013 and will be completed by in early 2014.

### **About Boys & Girls Clubs of Tampa Bay**

Boys & Girls Clubs of Tampa Bay has been a positive force in the community for 85 years; enabling young people to become productive, responsible and caring citizens through structured programming, safe learning environments and dedicated staff. With a focus on three core priority outcomes –

Academic Success, Healthy Lifestyles, and Improving Character & Leadership, Boys & Girls Clubs of Tampa Bay provides opportunities to build new skills that raise each Club Member's belief that he or she can succeed and receive recognition for personal, social and academic accomplishments.

**Boys & Girls Clubs Contacts**

*Media* | Cassandra Thomas | 813.769.7535 | [cthomas@bgctampa.org](mailto:cthomas@bgctampa.org)

*Lacoochee Boys & Girls Club* | Jennie Yingling | 352.583.2994 | [jyingling@bgctampa.org](mailto:jyingling@bgctampa.org)