



# PRESS RELEASE



## President of Boys & Girls Clubs of America Visits Boys & Girls Clubs of Tampa Bay

*BGCA President, Jim Clark, tours the Wilbert Davis Belmont Heights Club*

Tampa, FL, August 9, 2013: It was an exciting morning for Club Members and staff at the Wilbert Davis Belmont Heights Club as they received a special visit from the President of Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA), Jim Clark.

As part of a personal commitment to visiting Clubs nationwide, Jim arrived in the Tampa Bay area late this week to spend time with the President of Boys & Girls Clubs of Tampa Bay, Brad Baumgardner, and tour one of the organization's 17 sites, the Wilbert Davis Belmont Heights Club, located in the housing development of Belmont Heights Estates, a HOPE VI project that was completed in 2006.

"It was important, when we received notice from Jim Clark and BGCA, that we select a Club that truly embodied the majority of youth served in the Tampa Bay area," stated Brad. "The community of Belmont Heights is one where its young residents need a place like Boys & Girls Club to spend their time during out-of-school hours. And that is what this organization is about; filling a need and providing resources in the areas that need us the most."

What began as a 74-acre site containing 1,300 units of decrepit military-style barracks housing built between 1941 and 1952, has transformed into the Belmont Heights community, thanks to a \$32.5 million 1997 HOPE VI Revitalization Grant to the Tampa Housing Authority. Since its completion, the community has been populated with young people, many of which are teens.

"This Club is second home to most of our Members, especially the older ones," stated Jason Jenkins, Club Director at the Wilbert Davis Belmont Heights Club. "They come here to socialize, to learn, to work, and to receive guidance from positive role models. It was a huge honor to take our national President on a tour and show him the positive impact we are having on the young people in this community."

Along with the tour, which was guided by two long-standing Club Members, Jim had a chance to talk with youth about why Boys & Girls Clubs is important to them and what their favorite part of the Club was.

### **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**

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