



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF CLEVELAND**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Amanda Apostol

Communications & Events Coordinator

216-883-2106 x.238; aapostol@clevekids.org



(Bender & Bilinovic-Reed Not Pictured)

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF CLEVELAND INDUCTS THE FIRST CLASS FOR ITS HALL OF FAME

Cleveland, OH, July 26, 2010 –On Wednesday, July 21, 2010, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland (BGCC) inducted its first class for the newly-instituted Hall of Fame. The Club recognized three of its distinguished alumni; Cleveland City Councilman Zachary Reed, Wayne Bilinovic of Todd Associates, and BGCC staff member Craig Bender. Each year BGCC will recognize alumni or long-time supporters for their contributions to the community and honor them with Hall of Fame status.

Zachary Reed grew up in the Mt. Pleasant neighborhood and was a dedicated Boys & Girls Club member as a young boy. Reed began his career in public service in Ohio working for the Civilian Conversation Corps and running the federal Youth Apprenticeship Program that worked with local unions to hire youth from public housing. Before becoming a Cleveland City Councilman, Reed worked with Mayor Willie Brown in San Francisco, serving as the city's Intergovernmental Affairs Officer. He remains committed to improving his neighborhood and has recently worked to fund surveillance cameras and off-duty police patrols, as well as implemented a gun buy back program.

Wayne Bilinovic joined the Broadway Boys & Girls Club in 1973. In 1986 he was named the Youth of the Year for both the State of Ohio and the Midwest region, earning him a trip to Washington DC to meet President Reagan. Wayne attended Baldwin-Wallace College and in 2009 he was named to their Athletic Hall of Fame. He is currently the Chief Operations Officer at Todd Associates and is a member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland's Board of Directors.

Craig Bender joined the Broadway Boys & Girls Club in 1966 and was a committed Club kid until 1979. While a high school senior, he began working as a front desk staff member and since that time has held nearly every position in the Club. He currently serves as the Assistant Club Director at the West Side Club. The Club helped Craig beat the streets and his continued involvement has kept him young at heart. Craig is married to his high school sweetheart, Diane, and has two children, Jeremy and Ariel.

About Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland, the Cleveland, Ohio Chapter of the national organization, the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, was founded in 1954 and currently serves over 5,700 youth

in Cleveland's inner-city neighborhoods and in Cleveland Heights. Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland provides: a safe place to learn and grow, ongoing relationships with caring adult professionals, life-enhancing programs and character development experiences and most importantly, hope and opportunity. The mission of the national organization is to inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens. For more information, please visit www.clevelandkids.org.

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