



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **BOYS & GIRLS CLUB TEEN LEADERSHIP GROUP WINS NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**

*Capitol Hill Takeover service project allowed teens to meet and discuss issues with DC Mayor, First Lady Laura Bush and Presidential Candidate Barack Obama*

(Washington, DC) (April 2, 2008) – **Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington (BGCGW)** announced today that the Keystone Club, a teen character and leadership program, from the FBR Branch @ THEARC in Southeast, DC was recognized for a national community service award from Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA). The Club members were honored at the **National Keystone Conference** last week in Anaheim, California for their community service project entitled “Capitol Hill Takeover”.

The “Capitol Hill Takeover” project allowed Keystone Club members to meet with Mayor Fenty and discuss issues such as his administration’s control over the school system, their concerns of safety in Ward 8, funding to keep Boys & Girls Clubs and recreation centers open later and the need for youth participation in Washington, DC government. In addition, the Club members attended a summit on the drop-out crisis with BGCA President & CEO Roxanne Spillett and First Lady Laura Bush, a summit at THEARC (1901 Mississippi Avenue SE) attended by Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama and a meeting with Ward 8 Councilmember Marion Barry.

Tamika Joyner, FBR Branch @ THEARC Teen Director & Keystone advisor as well as the Southeast region Keystone Advisor of the Year, remarks “I am very proud of the Keystone Club members who worked hard on this project and were recognized for their efforts”.

BGCGW’s Keystone programs are regionally and nationally recognized and have received service awards for their project initiatives, the projects’ impact and the active participation of members. The groups have received the Character and Leadership Development award for the same community service project at the regional Keystone conference last fall, the 2006 National Keystone Community Service Award for their assistance with the cleanup of the Anacostia River, and Club members and staff who have served on the regional and national steering committees.

Keystone Clubs encourage members 14 to 18 years old to engage in projects impacting their Clubs, homes and communities. Teenagers in this program coordinate community service projects for their self-governed group, electing their own leaders and choosing their own projects giving program participants exposure to the democratic process.

### **About Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington**

One of the largest affiliates of Boys & Girls Clubs of America, BGCGW serves 30,000 children in 19 Clubs, 2 outreach centers, and a summer camp located in Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia. Through a variety of educational, sports and recreation, health, arts, and character development programs, BGCGW creates a positive environment where children are encouraged to develop their ambitions and turn them into reality. BGCGW helps boys and girls of all backgrounds, especially those who need us most, build confidence, develop character, and acquire skills that prepare them for school

and for life as productive, civic-minded, and responsible adults. For more information on programs, please call 301-562-2000 or visit our website at [www.bccgw.org](http://www.bccgw.org).