



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF GREATER WASHINGTON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF GREATER WASHINGTON NAMES  
GEORGE M. FERRIS JR NEW CHAIRMAN**

(Silver Spring, MD) (March 17, 2008) – The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington (BGCGW) Board of Directors has unanimously elected long-time board member George M. Ferris Jr. as its Chairman effective March 11, 2008. Ferris will replace Douglas Eby who has served as Chairman of the Board since July 1, 2007. Ferris, Chairman of Ferris, Baker Watts, Incorporated for over 50 years, is a leading citizen of the Washington, D.C. community and is fully committed to the future of the organization and to the children of the national capital region.

“Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington is an extremely important organization in the community and I am looking forward to serving as Chairman as we continue to provide quality programming instilling in young people a sense of self-respect” says Ferris. “We are a premiere catalyst in inspiring youth to make changes in their lives that can greatly impact the lives of their family, their peers and their community as well.”

As head of the largest full-service investment banking firm headquartered in Washington, DC, George Ferris has been a leader in the industry region-wide, and internationally serving investment banking populations in many international communities including Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, and Korea. In addition to being a successful leader in the investment banking world, Ferris has dedicated himself to public service. He has served as Chairman for both the Education Committee (D.C. Public Schools) for the Federal City Council and former Mayor Williams’ Education Committee. In addition, Ferris previously served as a General Campaign Chairman for The United Way and Vice-Chairman of the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. Nationally, Ferris served as the Chairman for the President’s Commission on Management of the Agency for International Development (AID) and Campaign Chairman for the National Symphony Orchestra.

Ferris holds a master’s degree in Business Administration from Harvard Business School, and a bachelor’s degree in Science and Engineering from Princeton University.

The organization also announced the resignation of Will Gunn, BGCGW President & CEO, who has served in this capacity since October 2005. “I am grateful for the opportunity and proud of what this organization has accomplished during my two and a half year tenure, said Gunn. “I am confident that under the new leadership, the organization will continue to do great things and serve the youth of the metropolitan area.”

"I want to thank Will for his service to this organization. Through his strong character and leadership, he has guided this organization through a critical rebuilding period" says Ferris. "I also have the utmost confidence in Kevin Dowdell as he begins to lead this organization as acting CEO. He has proven himself to be a strategic thinker and his tireless commitment to this organization will be invaluable as we overcome our challenges and prepare our young people for success in life".

BGCGW Chief Operating Officer Kevin Dowdell will serve as acting CEO. Prior to joining BGCGW, Dowdell was VP of Business Development for Home Box Office for six years and CEO of HBO's Volume Media, LLC for two years. Dowdell was a co-founder and Executive Director of Arthur Ashe's Safe Passage Foundation and, since working with Arthur Ashe, has spent almost 20 years of service dedicated towards youth development. He has personally mentored young men supporting them through the college process. He is Chairman of the National Jr. Tennis League, a Board member for the Harlem Jr. Tennis and Education Program and Founder and Advisory Board member of the 15 LOVE inner city tennis program in New York.

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

One of the largest affiliates of Boys & Girls Clubs of America, BGCGW serves over 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.bgcgw.org](http://www.bgcgw.org).

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