



**Statement re: George M. Ferris, Jr.**

It is with great sadness that Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington mourns the loss of George M. Ferris, Jr., our Board Chairman, who passed away on Monday October 20, 2008.

George served as a Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington (BGCGW) Board member for 7 years, as an Executive Committee member for 5 years and as Chairman of the Board since March 2008. George's unwavering commitment and dedication to work and raise money for the children and teens in the Greater Washington area was nothing short of astonishing. He liked to say that after he sold Ferris, Baker Watts, the investment bank that his father founded in the wake of the Great Depression and that he led for over 50 years, that he was working "full-time" for BGCGW and he did so with vigor and enthusiasm.

Ferris was a leading citizen of the Washington, D.C. community for many decades and he was a successful statesman as well – completing assignments as an appointed U.S. representative for the President's Commission on Management of the Agency for International Development (AID) Programs in a number of countries including Kenya, Korea, and Portugal. But recently, George's "New Era" vision and full-time commitment for BGCGW was focused on returning the organization to sound financial footing and ensuring that the youth of the national capital region received mentorship and high quality youth development opportunities.

George led by taking action and, on the fundraising front; he initiated a multi-year “Chairman’s Challenge” to encourage other BGCGW Board members to invest in the organization above and beyond their historic levels of support.

We will miss George greatly and on behalf of the thousands of children we serve, our Board members, and our staff, we offer our heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies to his family, colleagues and friends.

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