



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF THE LOWER NAUGATUCK VALLEY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OFFERS FREE MEMBERSHIP
TO MILITARY DEPENDENT CHILDREN**

Shelton, CT, February 16, 2009 – The Boys & Girls Club of America has joined forces with each branch of the military to offer children of reserve, guard, and active-duty families free membership to their local Clubs.

MISSION: Youth Outreach will allow the Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley to show its support to military families by expanding the reach of its after school and summer programs that focus on personal development, the arts, education, recreation and health.

By calling 800-854-CLUB or going online to www.bgca.org, military parents can find a Club in their area that is ready to assist in the membership process and give children access to a safe, fun, and positive place.

“Times of national crisis can dramatically disrupt a military family’s life,” says BGCA’s Director of Military Services and former Navy Lieutenant Tom Scheer. “That’s why it’s especially important that these young people be part of an organization that fosters a sense of belonging and understands their needs.”

BGCA currently provides supervised programming by trained youth development professionals to on-base Clubs around the world. MISSION: Youth Outreach will help increase the range of support to the more than 3,700 off-base Boys & Girls Clubs.

“We have similar values and principles, so a partnership with the Navy and Marine Corps was a natural fit for our organization,” said Jack Ribas, Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Club LNV. “This is just our way of giving something back in return for all that the military gives to America.”

Boys & Girls Clubs of America (www.bgca.org) comprises a national network of some 3,700 neighborhood-based facilities annually serving more than 4.4 million young people, primarily from disadvantaged circumstances. Known as “The Positive Place for Kids,” the Clubs provide guidance-oriented character development programs on a daily basis for children 6-18 years old, conducted by a full-time professional staff. Key Boys & Girls Club programs emphasize character and leadership development, education and career development, health and life skills, the arts, sports, fitness, and recreation.

For more information about MISSION: Youth Outreach or to find out how to enroll your child in the program, please call the Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley at 924-9329.

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