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**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF SARASOTA COUNTY**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County receives grant to open doors for children this summer

Sarasota, FL, March 30, 2016 – When the final school bell rings in June and announces the start of summer vacation, thousands of Sarasota County students are going to need a safe, secure place to continue to learn, play and grow until the school year begins again in August. Parents across the county are in search of quality programs and services to keep their children safe and occupied while they work during the day. Without adult supervision during the summer, children face a heightened risk of exposure to dangerous situations, such as crimes, alcohol and general mischief. Unfortunately, summer programming options like overnight camps and specialized sports clinics are too expensive for a large percentage of parents' budgets, especially for those who reside in the Newtown community.

Because of a generous \$89,000 grant from the Charles and Margery Barancik Foundation and a partnership with the Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources, parents in Newtown with children between the ages of 6 and 18 do not need to decide between high-quality summer programming and affordability for their children this summer. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County will open its Newtown Estates Park Club doors at 2800 Newtown Boulevard in Sarasota, and offer the 2016 Summer Program June 6 through August 12, Monday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"Many youth are home alone during the summer and vulnerable to gangs, drugs and violence," said Teri A Hansen President and CEO of the Barancik Foundation. "We support Boys & Girls Clubs because we know they will keep our youth safe and motivated over the summer months."

For a total summer membership fee of \$55, which amounts to \$5.50 per week, children at the Newtown Estates Park Boys & Girls Club will experience a new and exciting theme each week to enhance their academic success and healthy lifestyles while building their character and leadership development. Throughout this ten-week program, members will also receive nutritious meals and snacks each day and have opportunities available to participate in enrichment field trips in the community.

"The Barancik Foundation understands the importance of offering the best services possible to children in our community, especially to those who live in low-income households," said Bill Sadlo, President/CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County. "With their support and the County partnership, we can ensure that hundreds of children in the Newtown community get fed healthy meals and snacks, exercise and receive academic remediation every day this summer."

For more information about the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County or to learn how to sign a child up for the 2016 Summer Program at the Newtown Estates Park Club, please visit www.bgcsarasota.com or call 941-358-2878.

About the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County:

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County have played an integral role in the Sarasota County community for more than 46 years, providing daily programs and services to thousands of young people. The mission of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County is to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as

productive, caring, responsible citizens. The vision is to provide a world-class Club experience that assures success is within reach of every young person who walks through our doors, with all members on track to graduate from high school with a plan for the future, demonstrating good character and citizenship, and living a healthy lifestyle.

About Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation:

The Charles and Margery Barancik family has long believed in the power of philanthropy to shape our world and enrich the lives of all people. It was the expression of this belief that led them in 2014 to establish the Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation—a private, family foundation located in Sarasota, Florida. The Barancik Foundation creates initiatives and awards grants in Sarasota and beyond in the areas of arts and humanities, education and science, humanitarian causes, medical research, and the environment. For further information, please contact Kelly Romanoff at KRomanoff@BarancikFoundation.org.

About Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources

The Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources is a premier park system on the Gulf Coast of Florida. There are over 160 parks and 55,000 acres of parkland offering wonderful play spaces, pristine natural areas, beautiful beaches, great special events, and programs for everyone.

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