



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF FONTANA

Contact: **Terrie Schneider**
909.822.4988
info@bgcfontana.org

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF FONTANA RETURNS FROM
103rd ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Boys & Girls Clubs of America Hosts Some 2,000 Youth Workers in Atlanta

Fontana, May 2009 - The Boys & Girls Club of **Fontana** has just returned from Atlanta and an information-packed four-day meeting exploring some of the most pressing issues concerning the well-being of America's young people. A group of **2** led by **Terrie Schneider, Chief Professional Officer**, joined some 2,000 other Boys & Girls Club professionals and board members attending the 103rd Annual National Conference for Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA).

One of the most popular events was the Alumni Hall of Fame Ceremony where this year's inductees – R&B sensation **Ashanti**, former chairman of a Fortune 500 company **Barry Griswell**, media mogul **Cathy Hughes**, former NFL player turned juvenile court judge the **Honorable Tim Irwin**, head coach of the Superbowl Champions Pittsburgh Steelers **Mike Tomlin** and five-time Grammy winner **Usher** – received a standing ovation following their poignant remarks about how important the Club was to them in their childhood and how it taught them the importance of giving back. Former *Law & Order* star and BGCA alum Courtney Vance served as emcee.

"This year's class of inductees represents the power and impact a Club has not only on character and development, but also on civic engagement," said BGCA President and CEO Roxanne Spillett. "The 2009 inductees, as well as the other Alumni Hall of Fame members, are living proof that Boys & Girls Club programs work."

One noteworthy session included entertainer and activist Bill Cosby, who was joined by Harvard professional Dr. Alvin F. Poussaint, to discuss the personal responsibility each of us has to ourselves and our communities. The duo recently published *Come on People: On the Path from Victims to Victors*, which encourages individuals who have little hope of succeeding in life.

Both local board members and staff were also drawn to BGCA's National Youth of the Year and four regional finalists. They listened as the teens expressed their compelling stories about their Club's support and encouragement, something all youth need.

"Overall, the conference gave us great ideas, and most importantly - the opportunity to network with other Boys & Girls Clubs who are facing many of the same challenges we are here in *Fontana*," said Schneider.

The Boys & Girls Club of Fontana was cited for outstanding work in marketing and received a Silver and Gold Marketing & Communications Awards.

The Boys & Girls Club has played an integral role in *Fontana* for 20 years, providing daily programs and services to 300 young people daily. The Club is open *Monday thru Friday after school until 6 pm* providing programs in character and leadership development, education and career enhancement, the arts, health and life skills, and sports, fitness and recreation.

Contact **the Club at 909.822.4988 or info@bgcfontana** for additional information.

###