



Dear Club Members, Staff, Volunteers, Donors and Supporters:

May 10, 2007, marks the first year anniversary of the beginning of my stewardship of the Boys & Girls Club of Venice. The year has been full of amazing spirit, growth and commitment on all fronts within and outside of our organization. Our steady membership growth, created by community need has placed our club membership at over 4,100 youth served over four sites. Our impact has been tangible and measurable. Reports, such as our United Way Tomorrow's Leader report, highlight our ability to increase the grades and better the life skills of teen club members. In the arts, we continue to thrive, placing 13 art pieces in the regional Boys & Girls Club of America Art Competition in Palo Alto, Calif. resulting in three art pieces going to the national competition in Orlando.

We have received countless awards for our youth sports and recreation programs including our visionary youth sailing program. Next week, the club is receiving recognition at the Boys & Girls Club of America national conference for our programming success in the areas of athletics, recreation and physical fitness. Our outstanding music program is developing music producers, engineers, writers, and artists. More importantly, it has captured the energy and imagination of our teen membership. Our club is in the midst of an extensive technology integration plan throughout every programmatic and administrative area of the club, which will allow us to function at the highest level on all fronts, prepare us to handle growth and community need, while chipping away at the "technology" divide of at-risk children.

Yet with all of the success, the key ingredient has been our dedicated and committed staff. We have increased the number of full-time employees, increased our staff to member ratio, and made a commitment to employee training and development through BGCA and other outside training opportunities.

These wonderful happenings are the direct result of a committed team of volunteer board members and a board of governors who have made it a point to drive the message and mission of our club to anyone with a heart and willing to listen. In addition, several milestones have occurred, including securing our first endowment, exceeding \$2 million in revenue generated, and having an active board of 20 highly skilled and deeply committed members.

We have made incredible inroads in the corporate giving sector with several new strategic partnerships, a golf tournament, and an incredibly successful fall gala. In addition, we have regained the confidence of the granting community by delivering on their various missions to make sure dollars granted directly benefit the children and specific programs.

The buzz is incredible in the local community, as evident by our most successful annual giving campaign to date that has exceeded \$200,000, which represents nearly a 100% increase from the previous campaign. The club's thrift shop located on Washington Blvd. has completed a one-year overhaul and is poised for a brisk summer of sales.

The best part is that the growth is manageable and sustainable, which segues to our forthcoming strategic plan that will focus on understanding our targets, telling our story and delivering our mission.

Most importantly, the year has been fun and fulfilling professionally and personally, and I look to the future poised and ready to pave a brighter future for our club members with the community by my side. We all have a duty, an obligation, if you will to support these kids and families who need us desperately. Thank you all for stepping up to the plate!

Very truly yours,

Erik O. Aldridge

Chief Executive Office