



PHOTO RELEASE

Contact: Betsy Owens, Director of Marketing & Communications,
Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida

Mack Reid, Chief Operating Officer of Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida (BGCCF) receives the prestigious Merit Award for Program Excellence in Sports, Recreation & Fitness from Elizabeth Fowlkes, Senior Vice President, Boys & Girls Clubs of America. The award was recently presented during Boys & Girls Clubs of America's 112th National Conference in San Diego. Merit Awards for Program Excellence, are sponsored by MetLife Foundation and presented annually for outstanding programs developed and implemented to lead youth to great futures at Boys & Girls Clubs across the country. Each honoree also receives a \$2,500 award. Each year, hundreds of entries are submitted in the five core program areas: character and leadership development; education and career development; health and life skills; the arts; and sports, fitness and recreation. BGCCF's successful application was based on the "Soccer for Success" program at its Walt Disney World Clubhouse in Pine Hills. Orlando City Soccer Club has been instrumental in the establishment of this program, which aims to decrease childhood obesity and increase the fitness level among economically disadvantaged children and teens, and to give inner-city children access to soccer.

About Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida

Since 1944, Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida has provided at-risk children from the local community, between the ages of 6 and 18, with a safe place to learn and grow. Our

membership totals more than 15,000 young people at 35 Clubs and middle school sites in seven counties. The mission of Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida is to inspire and enable all young people, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens. Learn more at 407.841.6855, www.bgccf.org, facebook.com/bgccf, or twitter.com/bgccf.

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About MetLife Foundation

MetLife Foundation was established in 1976 to continue MetLife's longstanding tradition of corporate contributions and community involvement. Since it was established, MetLife Foundation has provided more than \$570 million in grants to nonprofit organizations addressing issues that have a positive impact in their communities. For more information visit www.metlife.org.