



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

For Immediate Release

Local Boys & Girls Clubs Program Honored by National Organization

WDW Club's Travels through Ancient Egypt Receives Merit Award

Orlando, Fla. (5/26/2015) – Last summer, the members of the Walt Disney World Clubhouse of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida immersed themselves in the culture and mythology of ancient Egypt, building an Egyptian market and producing a historical production about Egyptian mythology.

Last week, Boys & Girls Clubs of America recognized the program as one of the nation's best, choosing it from one of hundreds of entries into the Merit Award for Program Excellence contest. The club was recognized in the arts category and the award comes with \$2,500 for the club from the MetLife Foundation.

"With constant cut backs in art and culture in our schools, it is now our role to provide our youth with exposure to experiences they would not receive otherwise," says Gary Cain, president & CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida. "This program filled a void for many of our members by providing them with a challenging arts curriculum focused on creative expression through both visual and performing arts media."

Travels through Ancient Egypt was a 10-week-long project that involved all Club youth, ages 6-18.

Elementary-age members were grouped by age and asked to re-create an ancient open-air marketplace where vendors had art work - including jewelry, pottery and scarves - on display and "for sale."

With minimal staff guidance, teen members were responsible for all aspects of the end-of-summer drama production, from writing the script and casting actors and understudies to directing the play and creating sets and props.

In addition, other specialized groups contributed to the event. First, a group of teen acrobats, taught and directed by Cirque du Monde, provided the opening entertainment. Second, a youth dance group, Magic Movers, created and performed dances incorporating themes from Ancient Egypt during intermission. Third, interested members of all ages participated in a costume club that designed and created all of the costumes for each part of our Ancient Egypt performance, from the marketplace to the acrobats, dancers and actors.

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 nearly 13,000 young people at 30 Clubs and middle school sites in Brevard, Orange, Osceola and Seminole 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](https://www.facebook.com/bgccf), or twitter.com/bgccf.

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



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\$570 million in grants to nonprofit organizations addressing issues that have a positive impact in their communities. For more information visit www.metlife.org.

Photo information: Jose Bastias, senior service director, Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida, receives the prestigious Merit Award for Program Excellence in Art from Jim Clark, president, Boys & Girls Clubs of America. The award was recently presented during Boys & Girls Clubs of America's 109th National Conference in Chicago. From left to right: Clark; Bastias; RaQuel Hinton, service director, Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida; and Mack Reid, COO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida.

Contact: Alan Byrd, Alan Byrd & Associates, 407-415-8470, Alan@ByrdConnections.com

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