

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NEW BOYS & GIRLS CLUB COMING TO THE COMMUNITIES OF
WEST LAKES**

ORLANDO, November 8, 2017 – Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida (BGCCF) announced this morning that the organization will construct a new, state-of-the-art Club in Orlando’s West Lakes Neighborhoods, near Camping World Stadium. The 30,000+ sq. ft. facility will be known as the Jacqueline Bradley and Clarence Otis Family Branch, and will be located on the grounds of the West Lakes Campus for Education and Wellbeing, also announced by Lift Orlando today.

The Club will be named for Bradley and Otis, who have contributed a leading gift of \$2 million to the project, in addition to a \$2 million challenge grant, for a total potential contribution of \$4 million. The Bradley-Otis Family Branch will be part of the West Lakes Campus for Education and Wellbeing, which will neighbor a future Early Childhood Education Center and a Health & Wellness Center, in addition to the current and future phases of mixed income housing planned for the community.

“We believe that the Lift Orlando led revitalization effort and the new West Lakes Campus for Education and Wellbeing is going to vastly improve the quality of life for the residents of the West Lakes neighborhoods, and we are honored to be partnering with them in this groundbreaking effort,” said Gary Cain, President & CEO of BGCCF. “Boys & Girls Clubs bring hope and opportunity to children from disadvantaged circumstances, and we are so grateful to Jacqui Bradley and Clarence Otis for helping us reach the children of this long-neglected area.”

“This new Club represents a beacon of hope for our children and families, and would not be possible without the generosity, commitment and vision of Jacqui Bradley and Clarence Otis,” said Eddy Moratin, Executive Director, LIFT Orlando.

Bradley has served on BGCCF's Board of Directors since 1996; Otis, the retired CEO of Darden Restaurants, serves on the Board of Governors of Boys & Girls Clubs of America. The couple have long been committed to causes that create opportunity for young people with a focus on education and arts and culture. Jacqueline is also a board member of The Studio Museum in Harlem, and a former trustee of The Lawrenceville School. Clarence is a member of The Horatio Alger Society and board member of Williams College.

"Our community must ensure there are sufficient spaces for young people to explore, guided by youth development professionals and volunteers who deeply care about them," said Bradley. "All children, regardless of their parents' zip code or life circumstances, should have a safe and nurturing place to be when not in school, to discover and develop their gifts. The new Boys & Girls Club will support these objectives."

Designed by SchenkelSchultz Architecture, the new Club will include a gymnasium, technology center, music lab, art and dance studios, and separate floors for teens and younger children. It will be BGCCF's 37th Club, and will serve an average of 350 children per day.

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 36 Clubs and middle school sites in 7 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.

About LIFT Orlando

Founded in 2012, LIFT Orlando is a nonprofit organization founded by business leaders in Orlando, Florida, to partner with residents and break the cycle of poverty through holistic neighborhood revitalization focused around mixed-income housing, cradle-to-career education, community health and wellness, and long-term economic viability. For more information, visit LiftOrlando.org.

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