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BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

Contact: Shelley Henderson (704) 619-5328

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## For Immediate Release

### Charlotte Boys & Girls Clubs Announces Youth of the Year at Campaign Kick-off Breakfast

*\$972,000 will keep clubs open for more than 2,100 youth*

CHARLOTTE, NC (March 2, 2011)—Tough economic times mean that the demand for services for underprivileged youth are greater than ever, especially in the afterschool hours where kids at their most vulnerable. The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Charlotte Club offer a solution by giving young people in Mecklenburg a safe place to go after-school. Daily at the clubs youth receive positive guidance from caring adults and opportunities to support academics, develop healthy lifestyles, good character, and hone their leadership skills. Even more, the clubs are an affordable choice for parents—only \$5 per school year per child. (The cost per child for The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Clubs is \$511.)

To continue these services, The Boys & Girls Clubs will kick off its annual “Positive Place for Kids” fundraising campaign on Thursday, March 3 at 7:30 A.M. with a breakfast at Salvation Army Temple Corps, located at 940 Marsh Road, Charlotte. This fundraiser keeps kids off of the streets after school and into the safe environment of the clubs. Special guest at the event is Shanekque Allison, The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year. Shanekque was chosen out of 2,100 club members and will be honored for her achievements.

Shanekque, who comes from a single-parent household, is a ten-year member of the Boys & Girls Clubs. The clubs are a tradition in her family; her mother was a member of the Belmont Avenue Club. Shanekque’s goal is to attend culinary school with the hope of one day opening a bakery of her own. She credits the clubs with giving her the tools she needed for her success.

“I am forever grateful for the impact that the club has provided in my life,” said Shanekque. “It has given me great structure and the strength for growth and future success. The Boys & Girls Club family has helped me become a very mature and driven teen.”

“Our Clubs are making a difference in the community,” said Marty Clary, director of the Boys & Girls Clubs. “Last year our local clubs served more than 2,100 youth in 7 clubs. But there are still many children in our community who need the kind of positive influence and guidance the clubs provide. We want to reach out to these youth and their families.”

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#### **About The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Clubs**

The Boys & Girls Clubs was founded locally in 1935 on North Poplar Street. Today 7 clubs serve 2,100 school-age children. Programs include academics, recreation, the arts, character and leadership, and health and life skills. The clubs are located in diverse neighborhoods from Charlotte Housing Authority sites, to Davidson, to the nation’s only club in a homeless shelter. The Boys & Girls Clubs is a division of The Salvation Army of Greater Charlotte.