



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF METRO ATLANTA



FALL 2006 | BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF METRO ATLANTA

# CONNECTOR

## Tuesdays with Morrie Author Mitch Albom Hosts Book Signing to Benefit BGCMA

Author, television commentator, radio host, newspaper columnist, screenwriter, playwright, musician, sportswriter and philanthropist. *New York Times* best-selling author Mitch Albom wears many hats, not least of which is philanthropist. During his current 62-city book signing tour for his latest work, *For One More Day*, Albom will host 30 fundraising events, including a recent stop in Atlanta that benefited Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta.

For Albom, charitable causes are more than just a passing concern, they are a matter of the heart. "It's not just about me and selling books," Albom says, "but doing some good." Doing good is what Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta is all about. For more than 65 years, the organization has provided services to deserving youth in communities where resources are limited or nonexistent. Since 1989, Albom has helped deserving young people in his adopted hometown of Detroit through his three charities: "The Dream Fund," which allows disadvantaged children to become involved with the arts; "A Time to Help," which brings volunteers together to help serve and improve Detroit communities; and "S.A.Y. Detroit," Albom's most recent effort, an umbrella program that funds shelters for Detroit's homeless.

A Philadelphia native, Albom graduated from Brandeis University. He then went on to Columbia University in New York City, earning a master's degree in journalism and business administration. Before becoming a journalist, Albom was briefly an amateur boxer, nightclub singer and pianist. In 1981, Albom finally entered the world of journalism and wrote for many periodicals, including the *Sun Sentinel*. Eventually, Albom moved to Detroit where his career took flight, winning awards from the Associated Press, United Press International, and National Association of Sportswriters and Broadcasters.

With wealth and success under his belt, Albom began to crave more meaning in his life. After watching a feature story on ABC's *Nightline* about his inspirational college professor, Morrie Schwartz, Albom was moved to reconnect with his mentor, who was battling Lou Gehrig's disease. Albom visited Morrie weekly until his death; those visits ultimately lead him to write the best-selling *Tuesdays with Morrie*, and the award-winning *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*, both of which prove the value of love and the importance of sacrifice.



In his most recent effort, *For One More Day*, Albom chronicles the story of a man who, after struggling with alcoholism, decides to commit suicide. A journey back to his boyhood home becomes a path of healing, acceptance and love. The book's protagonist, Chick Benetto, is miraculously reunited with his deceased mother. He embraces this special gift by feasting on her

home cooking, reminiscing about old times and uncovering his childhood traumas. *For One More Day* shows him – and us – a world of possibilities and the power of forgiveness. This poetic fable poses the question many of us ponder: What would you do if you could spend one more day with a lost loved one?

For Albom, love lives on long after those we care about are gone, "I believe that you live on inside the hearts and minds of everyone you've touched while you were here on earth." For the more than 30,000 young people served by Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta, Albom's generosity will leave a lasting impression.

To learn how you can make a difference in the life of a deserving young person, please visit [www.bgcma.org](http://www.bgcma.org) or call (404) 527-7100.

**"I believe that you live on inside the hearts and minds of everyone you've touched while you were here on earth."**

## Marking a Milestone:

### Jesse Draper Club Celebrates a Year of Success

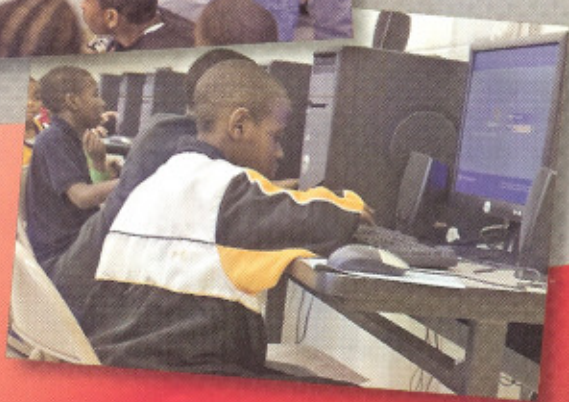
During last year's holiday season, members of Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta's Jesse Draper Club had special reason to celebrate: a new \$3.2 million facility, complete with a teen center, computer lab and full-court gym. Thanks to the generosity of the Woodward Academy, which underwrote the entire project, more than 1,000 area youth from Hapeville, College Park and East Point now enjoy a Club that is the pride of their communities.

Such success stories are part of BGCMA's "Growing Stronger Together" campaign, a \$22.5 million dollar capital enhancement and improvement initiative to raise:

- \* **\$16.5 million** to build new facilities and improve existing ones;
- \* **\$4 million** to expand programming impact through youth development and outreach initiatives; and
- \* **\$2 million** endowment to assure a strong financial base.

The driving force behind the campaign is the need to provide truly Positive Places for Kids! Some of the current Club sites, though well maintained, are housed in aging buildings. Other sites are located in shared or temporary spaces and need dedicated areas to support youth development. Upgrades in these facilities include constructing teen centers and investing in quality signage. New buildings are also planned for three additional Clubs: Walton County, Cherokee and East Dekalb. By providing Club members with comfortable and attractive spaces, BGCMA and its supporters are sending the message that we value and respect our most important stakeholders: the kids themselves.

**W** WOODWARD ACADEMY  
ESTABLISHED 1900



Please support  
Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta,  
The Positive Place for Kids!

## A Decade of Delight:

### Youth Art Connection Celebrates Artistic Impact

Established 10 years ago as part of the 1996 Olympic Games, BGCMA's Youth Art Connection gallery (YAC) has fulfilled its mission of establishing a lasting cultural legacy for Atlanta youth. Since its inception, the YAC gallery, which encompasses a 5,000-square foot exhibition space and artistic workshop, has given countless Club members a powerful channel to express their creative visions. In the process, they have enriched their communities through painting, performance and personal expression. Through a visiting artist program, young people also are given the opportunity to work with nationally and internationally renowned artists. Works by Club members have even been exhibited in St. Petersburg, Russia, and the UN Headquarters in New York.

In April, the YAC gallery celebrated its 10th anniversary by hosting an exhibition and silent auction. Proceeds from the auction, which featured works by acclaimed artists Tim Rollins, Kojo Griffin and Ann Hamilton, fetched more than \$20,000 for BGCMA's arts and cultural enrichment programs. As part of its 10th anniversary celebration, the YAC gallery also unveiled a new annual scholarship program for emerging artists. The YAC Paint Pals scholarships will be awarded to outstanding Club members who are pursuing a college education in visual or

performing arts. Applicants will be judged on their commitment to an arts education, and their demonstrated interest and participation in the arts, as well as their academic performance. This year's winner, Eddie Love, a member of the James T. Anderson Club, received the first-ever \$3,000 scholarship to fund his college ambitions. Thanks to contributions by Dorothy M. McClatchey, a long-time supporter of the arts in Atlanta, and Linden Longino, a BGCMA board member, the scholarship fund will award deserving recipients with needed college funding for the next decade.





Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta operates 21 year-round Clubs and three extension sites in 11 metro counties, in addition to Camp Kiwanis and the Youth Art Connection, a gallery and workspace for young artists. A trained, professional staff serves more than 30,000 youth annually by offering specialized programming and a safe haven for at-risk kids and teens. Clubs are located in communities with the greatest need, where similar services are limited or nonexistent. The cost of providing services to a member for a year is about \$900, but in order to effectively serve those who need us most, BGCMA asks families to pay annual membership dues of only \$35 per child. No child is ever turned away due to inability to pay. For more information about Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta, please visit [www.bgcma.org](http://www.bgcma.org).

At Boys & Girls Clubs  
of Metro Atlanta,  
we believe that every child  
holds enormous promise,  
and that all children deserve  
our guidance, respect and care.



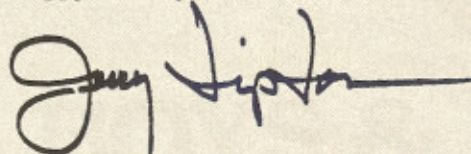
## A Heartfelt Appreciation for our Continued Success

As Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta continues to provide hope and opportunity to thousands of deserving area youth, I am struck by the ongoing daily assistance we receive that may go unnoticed or unrecognized. With help from hundreds of committed volunteers, we are able to provide leadership, guidance and skill development to our members.

Together, we empower our youth to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens. Together, we have accomplished a great deal and will continue to make huge strides in youth development. This year alone, we have been recognized for our exemplary branding efforts, our award-winning programs and critical outreach efforts to emerging communities. Together, we are growing stronger. In fact, that theme is the basis of our \$22.5 million capital campaign to provide thousands of Club members with new and upgraded facilities. It is an effort that we could not accomplish without your support.

I want to thank each and every volunteer for every hour and every dollar they have pledged to our organization. We take extreme pride in our mission and the success of our organization, none of which is possible without each of you. I personally pledge that with your ongoing donations and time, we will continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of countless young people. Together, we can do anything.

Happy Holidays,



Jerry Tipton, president, BGCMA



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