BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF THE LOWER NAUGATUCK VALLEY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: Jack Ribas
203-924-7462

Shaye Roscoe
203-924-9329

Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley
Program Director
Named Outstanding Youth Development Professional

Shelton, CT, December 14, 2010 – Jill DeWerdt, Program Director at the Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley, was presented with the Northeast 2010 A.D. "Archie" Mangini Outstanding Youth Development Professional Award at the Club's annual meeting on December 14th.

Jeff Starcher, Boys & Girls Clubs of America Northeast Service Director, presented the award for BGCA. "This award was named for a great Boys & Girls Club professional, whose spirit was full of enthusiasm, infectiousness, and fun. When you were with Archie, you were having a good time. This award is presented to an individual who embodies that love of working with the kids. Whether she's working with the teens or elementary age kids, guiding the Torch Club, or teaching Immersion (science), Jill is the ultimate professional."

Accepting the award, DeWerdt said "This organization doesn't take just one person to run it. It takes the Board, the staff, and my family for allowing me the extra time I need to make sure our kids have a safe and rewarding experience every day."

DeWerdt, a full-time youth development professional at the Club for ten years, currently wears several program "hats." In addition to coordinating activities for more than 70 six and seven year old Club members daily, DeWerdt is advisor to the Club's national award-winning Torch Club, a youth leadership group. She's the director for the Club's nutrition program, a curriculum DeWerdt co-developed with Unilever that teaches children how to shop, cook, and serve healthy meals.

DeWerdt also runs Immersion Presents, a marine science program based on the findings of Dr. Robert Ballard, who discovered the Titanic. Since the science program's inception in 2005, DeWerdt has taught more than 300 children using this outstanding science-based curriculum. DeWerdt was invited to Washington, DC, to make presentations on her program to the National Council on Crime Prevention, where she received some of the highest evaluations of the three-day conference. She was also invited by Dr. Robert Ballard and the Oceanographic Institute to escort a Club member to the Santorini Islands in Greece, and to a Swim with the Dolphins expedition in the Virgin Islands.

For more information about the Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley, visit us at www.BGC-LNV.com.

###