

Boys & Girls Clubs of America Honors Marcia Mintz with Prestigious Leadership Excellence Award

Arizona CEO Recognized for Transformative Leadership at National Conference in San Diego

PHOENIX (May 10, 2025) – Boys & Girls Clubs of the Valley President & CEO Marcia Mintz has been awarded the 2025 Thomas G. Garth Character and Courage Award by Boys & Girls Clubs of America. This award represents the highest honor the national organization can bestow on a Club professional.

The award, created in memory of Garth, a former Boys & Girls Clubs of America President, is presented annually during the organization's national conference to a Club professional who exemplifies the extraordinary leadership qualities and character that made Garth an exceptional role model during his decades of service to the organization.

Mintz received the award on Friday, May 9, during the culmination of the 119th national conference, where she was celebrated for her visionary leadership, especially during the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This recognition belongs to our incredible team at Boys & Girls Clubs of the Valley," said Mintz. "Every day, our staff shows up with passion and dedication to create opportunities for young people across Arizona. I'm honored to accept this award on behalf of the entire BGCAZ family who truly transform lives through their commitment."

As President and CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of the Valley, Mintz has transformed the organization during her eight-year tenure, growing from a \$16 million operation to a \$36 million organization with 32 sites across four counties. Under her leadership, BGCAZ has become the fifth largest system in the United States.

"Marcia exemplifies the courage and vision we need in today's youth development landscape," said Jim Clark, president & CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of America. "Her decisive leadership during the pandemic, when she kept Clubs open for essential workers' children and transformed operations to meet community needs, demonstrates the impact a truly dedicated leader can have. She has elevated not just her organization but strengthened Clubs across the entire state."

Mintz's accomplishments include masterfully leading a merger of two large organizations, championing behavioral health support in clubs long before the pandemic highlighted mental health needs, and successfully advocating at the state legislature for critical resources. She raised over \$20 million to support Clubs statewide and is currently championing legislation to make out-of-school time providers eligible for assistance dollars.

Beyond her professional achievements, Mintz was recognized for her genuine connection with staff, youth, and families. Many Youth of the Year graduates continue to reach out to her as a mentor years after completing the program, and she regularly supports teens in securing internships and career opportunities through her extensive network.

Mintz's influence extends throughout Arizona's business and nonprofit sectors, with previous recognitions including Phoenix Business Journal's Outstanding Women in Business, AZ Business Magazine's 50 Most Influential Women, and selection as a Piper Trust Fellow.

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About Boys & Girls Clubs of the Valley:

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Valley offers affordable after-school and summer programs for 15,000+ young people in grades K-12. At 32 Clubs across four counties, BGCAZ provides award-winning programs designed to change the lives of young people. For more than 75 years, BGCAZ has been creating equity and opportunity for youth through academic, social, and workforce opportunities. We help young people make healthy decisions and focus on social and emotional development to build resilient young adults. Most importantly, we work to develop strong character and leadership skills by creating positive connections to caring adults and their community. For more information, visit www.bgcaz.org or @bgcarizona on social channels.