



For Immediate Release

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Georgia Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs Partners with Orange Duffel Bag Foundation for 2012 GREAT Futures Teen Summit

ATLANTA (July 9, 2012) –The Georgia Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs (B&GC), Inc., partnered with the Orange Duffel Bag Foundation for the GREAT Futures Teen Summit June 26-29, 2012, with 325 teens from around the state attending. The summit exposes middle and high school students throughout Georgia to college life and career opportunities. This year's host college for GREAT Futures was Oxford College of Emory University, in Oxford, Georgia.

The GREAT Futures Teen Summit is a program hosted by the Georgia Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs each summer with the support of a grant from the Georgia Department of Human Services. Guest speakers included keynote Sam Bracken, co-founder of the Orange Duffel Bag Foundation and a Georgia Tech grad who was homeless at age 15 and Ron Brashear, founder of Youth of Honor Foundation. Macon hip-hop trio One Thurd performed and spoke to the teens about eliminating negativity from their lives. Boys & Girls Clubs' 2012 Georgia Youth of the Year Chantil Coleman, a 2012 Gates Millennium Scholar, spoke to her peers about pursuing their dreams and doing whatever it takes to get to college. Rising pop star Jordan Antonia performed. There was a surprise visit from R&B artist Bobby V, who spoke to the teens about his time at the John H. Harland Boys & Girls Club in Atlanta.

"This year's summit was a huge success," says Dawn Amaker, director of Georgia Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs. "I'm looking forward to partnering with Orange Duffel Bag Foundation next year." The 2013 GREAT Futures Teen Summit is tentatively scheduled for July 9-12 at Columbus State University.

The GREAT Futures Teen Summit was comprised of a number of educational and interactive sessions facilitated by volunteers and staff from Boys & Girls Clubs throughout the state of

Georgia and ODBF partners. Sessions included topics like Finding Money for College, Academic Success Planning, Time Management and other issues facing today's youth. To promote good character and citizenship, toiletry items were collected from the youth, filling over 100 shoeboxes that were donated to three area shelters. During evenings, attendees enjoyed a Movie Night, Open Mic/Karaoke Night, and Field Day.

The summit showcased ODBF's coaching curriculum, "The 7 Rules for the Road," which helps teens create a game plan for their future education and career goals. The curriculum is based on *My Orange Duffel Bag: A Journey to Radical Change*, co-authored by ODBF co-founders Sam Bracken and Echo Garrett. Bracken and Garrett donated copies of the book to all the youth and 50 chaperones. This multi-award winning book was just re-launched by Crown Archetype, along with *My Roadmap: A Personal Guide to Balance, Power and Purpose*. *My Orange Duffel Bag* is the only self-published book ever acquired by the Random House imprint.

DiAndre Arnold, owner of several Zaxby's restaurants in Conyers and Covington provided the teens with Zaxby's lunches on Friday, June 29. Other sponsors included Xerox Foundation, Xerox Georgia, The Coca-Cola Company, Wal-Mart, and The Home Depot.

The Georgia Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs is a 501(c)(3) non-profit entity that exists to assist Boys & Girls Club organizations across the state in obtaining state and local funding.
www.bgcga.net, www.bgca.org

The Orange Duffel Bag Foundation (ODBF), a 501(c)(3) non-profit that provides advocacy and certified life plan coaching free to youth ages 12-24 who are in foster care, aging out of the system or homeless. www.orangeduffelbagfoundation.org

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