



## Duck Adoption Paper inside

## It's Duck Season!



Soon thousands of ducks will descend upon Lake Lanier. But don't worry – they are not the wood or mallard breeds; rather, these

ducks will be bright yellow, sporting stylish black sunglasses. It's the signature fund-raising event for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Hall County. The 13th annual event will be held Saturday, May 7, 10 am – 4 pm at Clarks Bridge Park. Ducks can be adopted for \$5 each, or you can

increase your chance to win by purchasing Quack Packs (purchase 5 get one free) or Grand Packs (purchase 20 get 5 free). On Derby day “adoptee” parents will wait anxiously in hopes of winning one of many great prizes including the **Grand Prize – a new 2011 Camry LE donated by Milton Martin Toyota.**

“This is great family event which includes live entertainment, food, arts & crafts, children’s activities, bounce houses and has something for everyone,” said Larry Baldwin, head duck. “This is a great way to spend time with your family, give back to your community and help make a difference in a child’s life.”



### Rubber Duck Derby Schedule Saturday, May 7, 10 am – 4 pm

**10 am – 4 pm Duck Fest** – festival atmosphere, arts & crafts, jewelry, pottery, live entertainment, health screenings, kids’ nest (everything kids), great food and much more!

**1:30 pm - V.I.D. (Very Important Duck) Corporate Race** – exclusive party and race for corporate sponsors.

**3 pm – Rubber Duck Derby** – race begins

**3:45 pm – Winners Announced**

Thanks to our presenting sponsors:



## Donor Spotlight - Barkley Geib

For the past decade our biggest private supporter has been Barkley Geib of Buford, who has donated nearly \$150,000 during that period.

the Club’s annual Rubber Duck Derby. He also supports other fund raising events for the organization.

Barkley, his wife, Dee, and daughters Linda Gray and Audrey all help run the family business, Lanier Harbor Marina located at the south end of Lake Lanier. Barkley is president of his family’s foundation - the McKinney-Geib Foundation.

“Once I found out about the Club and

what it does for our community then it was a simple decision. It’s all about the kids, and the Club really steps up and helps these kids out.”

It is with support from people like Barkley Geib that allows the Boys & Girls Clubs of Hall County to continue its mission. The staff, board of directors and most importantly the young people we serve offer a big “Thank You!” to Barkley for all he has done for this organization.

Donations have included cash as well as, new boats for grand prizes during

# GREAT FUTURES START HERE.

## Academic Success starts here - graduation, homework



**The issue:** Because more than 30 percent of public high school students do not graduate on time, the U.S. has one of the highest high school dropout rates of any industrialized nation (Georgia has one of the lowest graduation rates in the country). This can set the stage for economic decline, and threaten our ability to compete globally.

### How does this affect communities?

- High school dropouts perpetuate the cycle of poverty. They are more likely to be unemployed, in poor health, on public assistance or incarcerated.
- Each class of dropouts results in financial and social costs, such as lost wages, taxes and productivity, as well as healthcare expenses.
- On average, each high school dropout earns about \$260,000 less in lifetime earnings than a high school graduate.

## Coach Joe

Joe Norman (Coach Joe) volunteers every day at the Clubs teaching youth the art of boxing. He is a great coach and role model for the young people under his tutelage. The program offers youth the opportunity to learn boxing skills and even more importantly funda-

mental life skills they will use the rest of their lives. "Coach Joe has changed my life, said Ivan Lopez, Club member. I am much more confident and feel good about myself because of the life lessons he has taught me through boxing."



### How are Boys & Girls Clubs of Hall County addressing the dropout crisis?

Boys & Girls Clubs promote learning and set a high value on education. With a vision of ensuring that every Club member graduates from high school, ready for a post-secondary education and 21st century career, our Clubs offer programs such as:

- **Power Hour**, a homework help and tutoring program
- **Goals for Graduation**, an academic goal-setting program
- **CareerLaunch®**, which introduces young people to the world of work
- **Money Matters: Make it Count**, a financial literacy program
- **Club Tech**, which uses technology to teach young people workforce skills
- **Summer Learning Loss?**

### Do Boys & Girls Clubs of Hall County programs work?

Yes! Since the Teen Center opened in 2006:

- **100 percent** graduated from high school
- **100 percent** enrolled in post-secondary schools
- **100 percent** of 8th graders passed the CRCT test
- **Nearly two-thirds** say that Club staff contributed to their success in high school.
- **70 percent** say the Club helped them discover subject areas they enjoyed.



## Badges for Baseball

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Hall County are the fortunate recipients of a new partnership with the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation! This new initiative will launch a new program in our Clubs called “Badges For Baseball”!

The signature program of the CRSF, Badges for Baseball, was created in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Justice as a juvenile crime prevention initiative. It’s a simple concept: pair law enforcement and kids together to play and learn. We will enhance the relationship between volunteer law enforcement officers and our kids by using intramural baseball and softball as the hook. The work is not easy, but the results are remarkable. Law enforcement officers become the coaches, teaching important lessons about teamwork, communication,

respect, and leadership that can be used both on and off the field. Our kids will learn the value of a healthy lifestyle, the importance of setting goals, and how to achieve goals such as staying in school, not joining gangs, and staying away from drugs. In addition, our children and their families begin to see local law enforcement as an agent for positive change and safety. Most importantly, law enforcement officers and young people begin to have fun together and develop a mutual respect for each other and their community.

The Badges for Baseball program will work with 100 Club kids over the course of the next 10 months. It is facilitated by local volunteer law enforcement officers and supported by trained Club staff. There are two components of the program:



1. The Club will host intramural baseball and softball league play which will be coached by our trained, volunteer law enforcement officers. Winning or losing is not the focus. Developing fundamental skills, fair play, team work and camaraderie is the emphasis.
2. Participating youth will take part in the “Healthy Choices, Healthy Children” program which is at the heart of the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation mission to help youth realize their potential. This engaging and interactive program is designed to give coaches and instructors a tool to incorporate life lessons on the field during teachable moments, encouraging youth to live the lessons of Healthy Choices, Healthy Children in every aspect of their lives.

## Joseph F. Walters Club - A Great Start

# TAKE THE TOUR!

Come see the club for yourself!  
Give us a call at:  
770 532-8102



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## Qymane Brawner Selected as Runner-up in State Youth of the Year



Qymane Brawner

More than nine years ago, Qymane Brawner joined the Boys & Girls Clubs of Hall County, and on March 25, 2011 he was named the 2011 Youth of the Year Runner-up for the State of Georgia. He competed against 36 other teens from across Georgia representing 160 Clubs and 68,170 members. He is the BGCHC's face of why "Great Futures Start Here.

Brawner attributes much of his success in school and his future aspirations to the life lessons he learned while at the Clubs. He learned at an early age that leadership is an important characteristic to have, especially when you are the oldest of thirteen brothers and sisters. He always tries to make sure that his two younger brothers, Micah and Javontae, stay on the right track.

Even though his father has been in and out of his life, Brawner has not allowed this to bring him down and always strives for the very best. He believes that a positive attitude will carry you far in life and exudes confidence to those around him. "You should not have to remind someone of the person you are, stated Brawner,

they should be able to see it through the things you do. When you can do the right thing in private - when no one is watching, you have good moral character."

Being named Youth of the Year is the highest honor a Boys & Girls Club member can receive. The title recognizes outstanding contributions to a member's family, school, community and Boys & Girls Club, as well as personal challenges and obstacles overcome.

"Our Club is extremely proud of Qymane and his accomplishments," stated Joe Ethier, chief professional officer, Boys & Girls Clubs of Hall County. He is a shining example of the good works that happen within our walls on a daily basis."

Brawner attends Gainesville High school where he is a senior. He believes "education is the key to success". Despite the various obstacles facing youth today, he has found the motivation within himself to remain strong minded and career driven. Brawner knows that he needs his education to be successful in life and has been accepted to several Colleges. He plans on making a final decision soon and will begin college this fall where he plans on majoring in Marketing Management and International Business.

Other local finalists were Tyeisha Williams, Shanice Ellison, and Alexis Hawks.