

Four Local Organizations Team Up to Form Alliance on Childhood Health and Nutrition

Health Experts Convene for Discussion on the Diet Crisis Facing Boston's Most Disadvantaged Neighborhoods

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BOSTON, Sept 17, 2008 /PRNewswire via COMTEX/ -- Three local non-profits, Boston Ballet, Boston Medical Center and **Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston**, have teamed together with Boston-based investment manager Loomis, Sayles & Company to create Health Smartz -- a groundbreaking alliance dedicated to raising awareness of the critical health issues affecting Boston's inner-city children.

Health Smartz will host its inaugural awareness and fundraising event, Hold the Fries!, on Thursday, September 25. This event will focus on the escalating childhood obesity epidemic and looming health crisis facing Boston's most disadvantaged families and children.

Hold the Fries!, to be held at the Boston Ballet studios in the South End, will be hosted by Myra H. Kraft, a long-time advocate and supporter of youth-based initiatives in Massachusetts. The evening will include a panel discussion, moderated by WCVB-TV news anchor David Brown, featuring authorities on childhood obesity, including the director of nutrition and weight management center, a restaurant chain representative that offers healthy alternatives, a cultural and athletic leader, and a young man who has overcome a lifelong struggle with obesity to become a personal trainer.

- Caroline M. Apovian, MD, FACP, FACN, Director, Center for Nutrition & Weight Management at Boston Medical Center
- Mikko Nissinen, Artistic Director, Boston Ballet
- Sam Amado, 2007 winner of ABC's reality show Fat March
- Stephen J. Caldeira, Chief Global Communications & Public Affairs Officer, Dunkin' Brands, Inc.

"Childhood obesity has had a devastating impact on individual lives and on our collective community. We must find effective programs to reverse this trend, especially those that can help children. Health Smartz is an important initiative in our search for a solution," Myra Kraft said.

The goal of the Health Smartz alliance is to offer an ongoing series of programs and events focused on the critical issues affecting Boston's children and to raise awareness on the long-term affects these have on the bodies and ultimately the minds of our children.

The Health Smartz alliance was initiated by Loomis Sayles through the company's Loomis Sayles Charitable Fund, managed by the Boston Foundation, which is dedicated to supporting charities that work with underprivileged children and families living in Boston's urban areas. Loomis Sayles engaged Boston Ballet, Boston Medical Center and Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston to join this unique partnership out of the growing need for collaboration between Boston's charitable organizations and the local companies that support them.

About Loomis Sayles

Since 1926, Loomis, Sayles & Company, L.P. has served the investment needs of institutional and mutual fund clients. This rich tradition has earned Loomis Sayles the trust and respect of clients worldwide, for whom it manages more than \$135 billion in equity and fixed income assets, as of June 30, 2008.

About Boston Ballet

Founded in 1963, Boston Ballet is one of the leading dance companies in North America. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Mikko Nissinen, the Company maintains an internationally acclaimed repertoire of classical, neo-classical and contemporary works, ranging from full-length story ballets to new works by some of today's finest choreographers.

Boston Ballet's second company, Boston Ballet II, is made up of pre-professional dancers who gain experience by performing with Boston Ballet and as an independent group, presenting lecture-demonstrations and unique programs to audiences throughout the Northeast. The Boston Ballet Center for Dance Education is the largest ballet school in North America. In service of its mission to bring the highest quality arts education to all, it reaches and instructs more than 5,000 students of all ages each year through Boston Ballet School, Summer Dance Workshop, Summer Dance Program, Citydance, Taking Steps, and Adaptive Dance. The wide array of dance education programs are held at four major ballet studio locations, in community centers, and throughout the Boston Public Schools.

About Boston Medical

Boston Medical Center is a private, not-for-profit, 625-licensed bed, academic medical center affiliated with Boston University School of Medicine. Committed to providing high-quality health care to all, the hospital offers a full spectrum of pediatric and adult care services including primary and family medicine and advanced specialty care with an emphasis on community-based care. Boston Medical Center offers specialized care for complex health problems and is a leading research institution. Boston Medical Center and Boston University School of Medicine are partners in the Boston HealthNet -- 15 community health centers focused on providing exceptional health care to residents of Boston. For more information, please visit <http://www.bmc.org>.

About Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston

Since its founding in 1893, BGCB has provided high-impact, affordable programs that enable youth to mature into productive, caring and responsible adults. Today, BGCB provides nearly 14,000 children and teens a safe place to go, ongoing relationships with caring adults, and life enhancing programs and experiences that build strong character and leadership qualities. We help them stay safe when they need it most -- after school, on weekends, during the summer -- and where they need it most -- in communities with prevalent crime, poverty and substance abuse. Our six core programs focus on education; technology; the arts; sports, fitness and recreation; life skills and leadership development. BGCB is an affiliate of Boys & Girls Clubs of America and The United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley. Please visit us on the web at <http://www.bgcb.org>.