

Joshua Kraft Named President of Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston



Joshua Kraft

May 9, 2008 — The Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston has named Joshua Kraft as its new president and CEO, succeeding Linda Whitlock, who announced last year that she would step down on June 30 after 10 years of leading the organization.

Kraft, who assumes his new role on July 1, was selected from a field of 250 candidates following a national search conducted by Gilbert Tweed Associates in collaboration with a the board of the **Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston** (BGCB).

In a letter to board members, donors and program partners, Sandra M. Edgerley, board chair, said, “Josh brings a broad range of relevant experience, exceptional leadership skills, and deep commitment to youth development and BGCB to this new role.”

“Over the past 18 years I have had the distinct privilege of working with our committed, professional and compassionate youth development and administrative staff, and our generous, diligent and committed board of directors,” Kraft said. “The entire staff thanks Linda for her charismatic, thoughtful and accomplished tenure as the Nicholas president and CEO. It will be a true challenge to step into her role, but I am eager and ready for this opportunity.”

He added, “I will cherish the memories of working in Chelsea for the past 15 years, and express my sincere gratitude to the dedicated and caring staff, our local board and business community whose unwavering generosity and strong leadership make a big difference in Chelsea.”

The Nicholas President and CEO position at BGCB was named in 2006 in recognition of Pete and Ginny Nicholas.

Kraft joined BGCB in 1990 to manage an outreach program with at-risk youth at the South Boston Club, and is the founding executive director of the Jordan Club, which provides a safe haven for thousands of young people, where he led major

local fundraising campaigns, and piloted innovative programming.

Kraft also manages several community relations programs as president of The New England Patriots Foundation. He is the son of Robert and Myra Kraft, who own the New England Patriots.

Since its founding in 1893, BGCB has provided high-impact, affordable programs and services that enable at-risk youth to mature into productive, caring and responsible adults. Today, BGCB serves nearly 14,000 young people, ages 6 to 18, in nine Clubs across Boston and in Chelsea, through the Youth Service Providers Network, a partnership with the Boston Police Department; and Camp Harbor View. BGCB's 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.