



GRENVILLE BAKER BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 15, 2024

Leadership Transition at Grenville Baker Boys & Girls Club

The Board of Directors of Grenville Baker Boys & Girls Club is pleased to announce an important transition in the leadership of our Club during 2024. After over 30 years of dedicated service and impactful leadership, our longtime Executive Director, Ramon (Ray) Reyes, will be transitioning out of his current role over the course of 2024 to become an active grant consultant to the Club as Melissa Rhodes becomes the new Executive Director. The Board is immensely grateful to Ray for his unwavering commitment and the transformative work that he has accomplished over the course of the last three decades.

Under Ray's leadership, GBBGC has experienced tremendous growth in size, quality, and stature for the benefit of the youth and families of our community, becoming a role model for youth-serving organizations on Long Island and in the Boys & Girls Club movement. Ray oversaw the expansion of the Club's mission, changing from primarily sport-oriented programs to now serving over 1,200 children annually in grades K-12 from multiple communities throughout the North Shore. Ray's leadership has included spearheading multiple renovation projects and two successful Capital Campaigns including a new gymnasium in 2002 and the recent transformation of the Clubhouse to a modern state-of-the-art multi-purpose facility.

Ray has been instrumental in expanding the Club's offerings to implement diverse and innovative programs such as the nationally-recognized College Prep program, and award-winning Torch and Keystone community leadership clubs. Ray has also been responsible for significantly improving the Club's finances and endowment. Ray's commitment to our children has had a positive impact on numerous Club members and alumni, ensuring that each child is able to reach their potential as responsible, caring, and productive citizens. Recognized as a leader by Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Ray has received numerous BGCA National Service to Youth Awards, and has also mentored many youth development professionals within the BGCA movement including GBBGC's next Executive Director.

With this transition, Melissa Rhodes will be stepping into the role of Executive Director. Melissa has had a long association with Grenville Baker Boys & Girls Club from her younger days as an active Club member to working as the Director of Education from 2000 to 2006 and then on to her most recent role as the Director of Programs and Professional Development at the Club

since 2019. Melissa has held a variety of important Boys & Girls Club positions outside of her time at GBBGC including as a Director of Organizational Development for Boys & Girls Clubs of America, the Executive Director of Glen Cove Boys & Girls Club at Lincoln House, and Director of Development at Boys & Girls Club of Stamford. In addition to her impressive background, Melissa shares a deep passion for our mission and a proven track record of achievements across multiple organizations. We look forward to Melissa continuing the positive momentum that Ray has built as well as shepherding the Club's growth into the future.

As GBBGC embarks on this new chapter, we remain steadfast in our commitment to empowering and inspiring the youth in our community. Grenville Baker Boys & Girls Club will continue to be a beacon of hope and opportunity, thanks to the steadfast support of our generous donors and surrounding community. The Club's outstanding staff will allow us to continue to provide life-changing programs and services to the young people who need it most. Together, we are shaping a brighter future for generations to come.

The Board of Directors thanks Ray for his decades of amazing leadership and dedication to the Club. We are immensely grateful for his years of service to the organization, and appreciative of the bonds of teamwork and mutual dedication to the mission of the Club which has always been present during Ray's tenure.