



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF AMERICA**

### **Fact Sheet: Embracing Inclusion Initiative**

- GOAL:** To provide Boys & Girls Clubs with the tools and resources needed to more effectively serve all youth – those with and without disabilities – in fun, safe, inclusive environments.
- WHY:** Welcoming all children into Boys & Girls Clubs promotes a diverse environment that will benefit members, staff and volunteers, families and the community at large.
- WHO:** Boys & Girls Clubs members, staff and volunteers
- WHAT:** For the past three years, BGCA has used funding from the Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation (MEAF) to provide 10 Clubs with financial support to enhance their work and ability to serve more youth with disabilities and special needs.

In 2006, with continued financial support from MEAF, BGCA partnered with Kids Included Together. This partnership provided BGCA the opportunity to develop a number of new tools and resources including:

- ***Embracing Inclusion Best Practices Guide:*** a guide that provides examples, ideas and resources to assist Clubs in developing and implementing an inclusion philosophy;
- ***Guiding Practices for Inclusion:*** an assessment tool that allows Clubs to evaluate their current level of service to youth with disabilities and address areas that can be improved;
- A Web page on [www.bgca.net](http://www.bgca.net) which serves as a permanent repository for all resource materials developed for the initiative, as well as program and service-specific Web-based resources and links; and,
- A programming guide and accompanying training syllabus that will provide Club professionals with an understanding of inclusion, an overview of the Americans with Disabilities Act and practical approaches to develop inclusive programming.

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