

**GREAT FUTURES START [HERE.](#)**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Sara Bealor, Development Specialist  
941-366-3911; sbealor@bgcsarasota.com**

**Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County to name new  
Career Resource Center for Tom and Debbie Shapiro**



*Tom and Debbie Shapiro*

**Sarasota, FL, September 23, 2015** – The Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County received a major gift from Tom and Debbie Shapiro to help close a significant gap between the job market and qualified candidates for employment in the community. This contribution will support workforce development at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County’s new Career Resource Center on Fruitville Road in Sarasota. In recognition, the building will be named the Tom and Debbie Shapiro Career Resource Center.

The Tom and Debbie Shapiro Career Resource Center will be a state-of-the-art facility to house classes and training programs for Boys & Girls Club members, ultimately encouraging them to pursue higher education at the collegiate level or secure competitive community employment after high school graduation in areas including, but not limited to, skilled vocational jobs. Club members will also participate in trainings to develop core skills including communication, interpersonal, time management, problem solving, and interview abilities. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County invite industries to lead some of the training programs to support full-time, long-term career employment opportunities for high school graduates at the completion of their technical training.

“Tom and Debbie Shapiro are two remarkable friends of our organization who have been dedicated to enhancing the lives of the children we serve for more than ten years,” said Bill Sadlo, President/CEO at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County.

Tom served as the organization’s Board Chair from 2013 to 2015, and his keen sense of business and finance was instrumental in procuring major initiatives, including the Career Resource Center. Before serving as Board Chair, Tom and his company, Sterling Manufacturing, had already given thousands of dollars both financially and in labor and products. Debbie also engages in the Club’s vision at every opportunity. Through her participation in Leadership Sarasota 2014, the group took on a project of landscaping a sustainable garden at the Roy McBean Club. She also initiated a large matching grant for the Clubs from her former employer, Apple. Furthermore, Tom and Debbie chaired the organization’s annual gala.

The Shapiros involvement with Club members extends far beyond the amount of dollars donated. Recently, they threw a surprise pizza party at the Roy McBean Club and gave shopping sprees to Club members to purchase clothing and supplies for college. They are truly champions for the children served at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County.

“With their most recent gift, our organization can give children who live in disadvantaged circumstances a supportive environment to build a career path and ultimately secure a great future,” said Sadlo. “With the Shapiro’s generosity, the Tom and Debbie Shapiro Career Resource Center will instill a sense of hope for thousands of children in our community for years to come.”

To learn more about the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County or the Career Resource Center, visit [www.bgcsarasota.com](http://www.bgcsarasota.com) or call 941-366-3911.

***About the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County:***

*The Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County have played an integral role in the Sarasota County community for more than 45 years, providing daily programs and services to thousands of young people. The mission of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County is to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. The vision is to provide a world-class Club experience that assures success is within reach of every young person who walks through our doors, with all members on track to graduate from high school with a plan for the future, demonstrating good character and citizenship, and living a healthy lifestyle.*

###