



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Local Leaders Honored by Youth Foundation

Brockton - The Brockton Youth Foundation has named **Harry Allen** of Brewster – former Principal, Brockton High School, and 1st Director of Brockton Community Schools (1970); **Brockton Youth Soccer Association** and its Executive Board – **Rick & Anne Savignano, Greg Joyce, Michael Khang, Joe Lupica, Jen Marchetti, Lisa O'Donnell, Eileen Searles, and Juan Aguilar**, all of Brockton; **Elizabeth Chauppetta** and **John Fontes** of Brockton and **Kristin Schilling** of Hanover – Brockton High School students who raised money for Muscular Dystrophy with a cross country bike ride; **Tony DeGrace** of Brockton – Brockton Fire Department, youth coach and adjustment counselor at the “Y”; **Kathy Smith** of Brockton – Director of Brockton Community Schools, BPS; and **George Sylvester** of West Bridgewater – long time youth basketball coach, as honorees for its 3rd annual **Breakfast with Champions** event on Sunday, March 20, 2011 at 10:30 a.m. at the Shaw's Center, One Lexington Way, Brockton, MA. The event will include a special ceremony to highlight their extraordinary leadership to support Brockton youth.

Mr. Allen was named the first Director of Brockton Community Schools in 1970 with the opening of the new Brockton High School and developed nationally recognized programs to serve the Brockton community. **The Brockton Youth Soccer Association** is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year and serves over 1,000 Brockton youth. Several executive board members have 20 or more year of service. **Ms Chauppetta, Ms Schilling and Mr. Fontes** received national press last summer during their bike ride from California to Massachusetts to raise funds for Duchene's, a form of Muscular Dystrophy. **Mr. DeGrace** is a firefighter with Brockton Fire Department and continues to find time to coach youth sports and work as a youth adjustment counselor with the Old Colony YMCA. **Ms Smith** became the Director of Brockton Community Schools in 2001, oversees 45 programs including Start Smart Extended Day programs, adult enrichment and recreation programs, adult high school diploma program, Expressway to English (ESOL), and the Get Ready summer programs, all of which serve over 10,000 youth and adults annually. **Mr. Sylvester** began coaching his son's basketball team in 1995 and has continued as one on the longest serving coaches for Brockton Community Basketball and currently serves as the coach for the West Bridgewater Middle School boys basketball team.

The **Brockton Youth Foundation** is a 501 © (3) charitable organization formed by involved parents and civic leaders to provide funding, leadership and programs to support out-of-school activities as well as increased access and lower fees for all programs serving Brockton youth.

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The Foundation is using this year's event to build support and community partnerships that recognize the value of Brockton's youth as the city's next generation of champions and leaders. "While most families and businesses are struggling with a difficult economy, our youth need the community support more than ever," said Bill McGauley, president of the foundation. "It is our hope that the community can find a way to support us and help continue the work of the past generation to champion and fund programs like the Brockton Community Schools and the Mayor's Youth Fund."

Previous honorees include **Dr. Susan Szachowicz**, Principal, Brockton High School; **Dave Gorman**, DWF Kids Run; **Kenneth "Sonny" Hewitt**, basketball official with Brockton program for 30 years; **Larry Johnson**, radio personality and youth minister; **Barbara Duffy**, founder of My Turn; **Jack Yunits**, former Mayor of Brockton; **Nancy Leedberg**, Brockton Police Department, Resource Officer; **Michael Thomas**, former Housemaster at Brockton High School and Director of Brockton Community Basketball; **Tom Ross**, President, Brockton Youth Softball; **Carol Thomas**, Director of BHS Drama Club for 35 years; **Marcia Hoyle Walkama**, national Girl Scout leader; and the **Boxer Buddies** program of Brockton High School.

Tickets for the **Breakfast with Champions** are \$25 for adults and \$15 for students. To reserve your tickets, mail a check to Brockton Youth Foundation, 107 Wheeler Avenue, Brockton, MA 02301 or call Bill at 508.584.2506 by March 9, 2011. For more information visit www.brocktonyouthfoundation.org

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