



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF GREATER FLINT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Bob Nelson, Director of Operations

810.249.3413

nelsonr98@gmail.com

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF GREATER FLINT KICK OFF SUMMER *PARKS IN FOCUS* PROGRAM WITH LIVE BATS!

FLINT, MI (May 4, 2012) — The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Flint (BGCGF), the Udall Foundation, and University Outreach at the University of Michigan-Flint are kicking off their 2012 *Parks in Focus* program – which aims to connect youth to nature through photography – by providing BGCGF youth with the unique opportunity to get up-close and personal with some of the world’s most misunderstood critters: bats.

The program, presented by the Organization for Bat Conservation (OBC), will take place at 4 p.m. on Thursday, May 17 at the BGCGF’s Averill Unit. Participants will observe live bats and other nocturnal animals as they learn about the adaptations that allow those species to survive, and thrive, in Michigan. The OBC is the largest bat conservation program in the country and is headquartered at the Cranbrook Institute of Science in Bloomfield Hills, Mich. The May 17 program is sponsored by Critter Catchers.

“We are excited for the OBC to come to the Club and provide our participants with the unique opportunity to see some of the neat, but often misunderstood species, that live in our backyards,” said Bret Muter, Michigan Coordinator of *Parks in Focus*. “This will be a great kick-off to the BGCGF’s summer recreational activities, like our *Parks in Focus* program, that aim to get youth outside and learning about their local environment.”

About Boys & Girls Club of Greater Flint

The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Flint is a positive and safe place for all children, with special attention for those from challenged circumstances, to attend after school, on Saturdays and during the summer. It costs only \$10 per year for a child to become a member (assistance available), while the actual cost of providing service is about \$350 per child. The difference is made up through grants, foundations, individual donors and support from corporate partners. The Boys & Girls Club provides programming to 1,500

local youngsters in five core areas: Sports, Fitness & Recreation, the Arts, Character & Leadership Development, Education & Career Development, and Health & Life Skills.

About Parks in Focus

The mission of the Udall Foundation's *Stewart L. Udall Parks in Focus* program is to connect underserved youth to nature through photography. Tucson is home to the flagship program; though trips are run and community initiatives are being developed in additional states. In 2011, the Udall Foundation piloted its first *Parks in Focus* program in Flint in partnership with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Flint and University Outreach at the University of Michigan-Flint. This unique partnership, supported in part by the A.G. Bishop Trust, provided youth (ages 11 to 14) from the BGCGF with the opportunity to hike, camp, fish, photograph and explore area parks in Genesee, Saginaw and Bay Counties. The program will continue in summer 2012 reaching more Flint-area youth and their families. For additional information about the *Parks in Focus* visit <http://pif.udall.gov> or contact Bret Muter at 989.284.0976 or bretm@udall.gov.

About Critter Catchers, Inc.

Founded in 2005, the Ortonville, Mich.-based Critter Catchers, Inc. was formed by David Kugler, an Oakland University graduate holding a Bachelors of Science in Biology, and a Masters Degree in Environmental Engineering from Wayne State University. Critter Catchers provides wildlife control services in SE Michigan and specializes in humane bat removal and other attic pests. Visit the Website at www.crittercatchersinc.com or call: (248) 432-2712.