



**LEE COUNTY**  
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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November 16, 2009

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**Dear Friends:**

Our youth face enormous challenges today. In turn, our communities are presented with monumental opportunities. With diseases such as obesity and diabetes affecting children in numbers that have more than tripled over the last two decades there are obvious problems to be dealt with. The ramifications of these problems are felt in every sector of our nation and economy. As a leader in Lee County I chose to acknowledge the problems and focus on the opportunities created for both our posterity and for ourselves. A fine example of the dilemma being addressed and the moment being seized is the EA Youth Club.

I have chosen to endorse and support the EA Youth Club to engage Lee County youth in a program that is both challenging and accessible. This program not only challenges our youth physically but also rewards them for maintaining above average scholastics, volunteering in the community, and exhibiting positive lifestyle values such as: community building, leadership, dedication, and self-confidence. These are the indispensable tools our youth must be armed with to be good students and productive, healthy citizens. What compels me to be an advocate for the EA Youth Club specifically is their focus on removing as many barriers as possible to any youth's participation in Lee County. This service is invaluable yet is being offered to students, with the generous help of sponsors and donors, at no cost directly to the students or their families. I'm proud to help the EA Youth Club succeed in our local environment and look forward to our community inspiring similar efforts throughout our nation.

As a community leader I urge you to join the cause and support the EA Youth Club in any way you can. The return on your investment is a tangible stake in the success and health of our youth. We can all play a part in the reduction and prevention of disease and lifestyle-based societal ills through programs like this. Let's begin building towards positive statistical trends in the future and inspiring examples of healthy, productive students today.

Thank you for your time and support.

Sincerely,

Ray Judah, Chairman  
Lee County Board of County Commissioners