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FREE PROGRAM AIMS TO TEACH BOYNTON'S YOUTH ABOUT "ENVIRONMENTALLY-AWARE" ANGLING

Boynton Beach CRA approves funding to offer an educational fishing program to local 8 to 12-year-olds

Boynton Beach, FL. - What happens to a child from ages 8 to 12 often helps to shape that child's future. A new program, free to at-risk youth in Boynton Beach promises to not only arm local children with a life-long skill, but also environmental appreciation and awareness.

The Boynton Beach Community Redevelopment Association (CRA) board has approved \$11,856 to fund an educational opportunity for Boynton Beach children ages 8 to 12, offered by Florida Fishing Academy's Captain Richard "Rich" Brochu. Starting Feb. 27, 2010, and held every Saturday (except holiday weekends) from about 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Captain Rich will teach local children the basics of fishing, fishing rules and regulations, fishing biology and how to handle fish. The program also includes several fishing trips, to help put their new-found knowledge to practice. The program is funded through September 2010.

"Our message is 'environmental.' We want to raise a group of ethical anglers, and, hopefully, future biologists and conservationists," Captain Rich said. "Studies have shown that targeting kids at these ages with positive opportunities can have a profound impact on their lives."

Captain Rich is no stranger to helping at-risk youth. He has received funding from the CRA in the past for the city's Youth Violence Program, for children ages 12 to 19.

"This new program builds on the years of success we've witnessed with a similar program teaching the city's older at-risk youth about the fishing trade," said CRA Executive Director Lisa Bright. "This meets with the mission of the CRA, directly impacting youth living within the CRA District, and we're excited that Captain Rich will be able to teach our pre-teens a skill that they will enjoy and, possibly, turn into a profession later in their lives."

For more information on the fishing academy, contact Richard Brochu at 561-740-7227 or www.floridafishingacademy.com.

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The Boynton Beach CRA is committed to serving the community by guiding redevelopment activities and stimulating economic growth within its 1,650 acre district. The agency focuses on creating a vibrant downtown core, providing affordable housing, and revitalizing neighborhoods.

For more information on the CRA, its events and activities, call (561) 737-3256, or visit www.boyntonbeachcra.com.

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