



Contact: Erin Freehan  
Special Events/Marketing Director  
Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County  
544 East Providence Ave.  
Spokane, WA 99207  
(509)-489-0741  
www.bgcspokanecounty.org  
efreehan@bgcspokanecounty.org

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**“BELLS FOR TEENS” RAISES \$20,000 FOR BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF SPOKANE COUNTY**  
*Taco Bell to Present Local Boys & Girls Clubs with \$20,000 at Chiefs Hockey Game*

*SPOKANE, WASHINGTON* (Tuesday, February 23) – Thanks to a continued partnership and interest in supporting youth nationwide through their *Bells For Teens* Campaign, Taco Bell will present the Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County with a generous check worth \$20,000 at the Spokane Chiefs game on Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. The Spokane Arena will once again serve as the backdrop for the check presentation between Taco Bell’s area coaches Diane Smits and James Besau and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County Executive Director, Ryan Davenport and Board President, Chad Burchard. During the ceremony, Taco Bell will also present a check for \$6,375 to Ryan Davis, the Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Club of Kootenai County for their 2009 *Bells For Teens* campaign efforts.

A community initiative, The *Bells For Teens* Campaign encouraged local Spokane area Taco Bell locations to sell holiday “Bells for Teens” for \$1 between November 27<sup>th</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup>. The \$20,000 raised during the 2009 *Bells for Teens* Campaign will be used to extend educational and teen programs provided at the three Spokane Boys & Girls Clubs.

“Taco Bell has proven to be the perfect champion for Spokane’s youth over the years - their generosity and active participation at every level speaks volumes,” said Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County Executive Director, Ryan Davenport. “Thanks to Taco Bell’s continued support, we have been able to greatly expand our programs and provide services to more local children than ever before.”

Taco Bell’s commitment to the development of local area youth through their advocacy and participation in programs such as the *Bells For Teens* Campaign has been further enhanced by their involvement in two other fundraisers for Boys and Girls Clubs operating in the Inland Northwest last year. In total, Taco Bell has generously donated over \$40,000 through various fundraising efforts such as the inclusion of canisters at Taco Bell locations which collected \$3,792 and it’s Give for Graduation Day program held on April 23, 2009 which donated 15% of sales; this year it raised nearly \$10,000.

“Taco Bell is dedicated to building strong communities in every corner of the country and we know it has to begin with our youth,” stated Craig Langel, the President of the Spokane-Area Taco Bell Association. “Our solid relationship with the Boys & Girls Clubs of America including Spokane County has provided us with the perfect opportunity to directly and positively impact future generations of leaders.”

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**About the Taco Bell Foundation For Teens**

The Taco Bell Foundation for Teens (TBFT), a non-profit 501(c)(3) public benefit corporation, is committed to addressing the growing number of high school dropouts in the U.S. by providing at-risk youth with mentors and real-world experiences that will motivate them to stay in school and achieve more in life. Since 1995, TBFT has donated more than \$23 million to support teen programs at Boys & Girls Clubs of America with the help of on-going customer, franchisee and employee donations.

**About The Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County**

Since 2001, The Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County has been a part of a nationwide affiliation of local, autonomous organizations dedicated to helping young people of all backgrounds develop the qualities they need to become responsible citizens and leaders. Founded in the philosophies of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County operates multiple Clubs in order to provide a broad range of programs in five Core Areas: Education and Career Development, Character and Leadership Development, Health and Life Skills, The Arts and Sports, Fitness and Recreation.

Currently serving more than 2,400 area youth between the ages of 6 - 18, The Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County operates three Clubs year-round from Friday through Monday. For a yearly membership fee of \$10, youth have access to all of the Clubs: Northtown Branch (Open 3pm – 7pm); the Libby Teen Center (Open 4pm – 8pm) and the Lisa Stiles-Gyllenhammer Mead Branch scheduled to open in March 2010 (Open 3pm – 7pm).

For more information about the Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane, visit [www.bgcspokanecounty.org](http://www.bgcspokanecounty.org)

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