

Safeco Insurance Foundation donates \$770,000 in Education Grants

Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County receives \$16,000 for BE GREAT: Graduate program

Seattle, Wash. (Nov. 21, 2011) — Two years ago, the Safeco Insurance Foundation launched an education initiative with the auspicious goal of improving educational achievement and opportunities for youth in Washington and Oregon. Today, the philanthropic foundation of Safeco Insurance is taking a step closer to achieving that goal by donating \$770,000 in grants to 32 organizations, positively impacting an estimated 10,000 young people.

“The Safeco Insurance Foundation gives priority to educational programs that encourage disadvantaged youth to excel academically and create opportunities for life-long success through learning,” says Paul Hollie, the foundation’s director. “Safeco believes that investing in education is an investment in our community at large.”

Since the inception of Safeco Insurance Foundation’s education initiative in 2009, more than \$2 million has been donated to programs in local communities across the Northwest that expand academic opportunities and highlight the path to further education for low-income and limited-English proficient students. This year’s grants range from \$5,000 to \$50,000 each and are designated for a variety of out-of-school or in-school programs and vocational or technical training.

Recipients include 826 Seattle, which will use its grant to fund after-school tutoring programs and workshops; **Boys & Girls Club of Spokane County, which will put its grant to work as part of the Be Great: Graduate! program;** and Portland YouthBuilders, which helps young individuals earn general educational development degrees and receive job training.