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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANNUAL AUCTION FOR KIDS RAISES \$178,000 FOR THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF SPOKANE COUNTY

SPOKANE, WASHINGTON (Friday, March 4) – The Kalispel Tribe of Indians and Northern Quest Resort & Casino once again served as Event Sponsor and host to the 2011 Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane “*Attitude of Gratitude*” Dinner and Auction held on Friday, February 18th. The largest organizational fundraiser of the year, the 9th annual celebration netted \$178,000 which will directly support the critical programs and services offered to area youth ages 6-18 years old.

“The need for a safe and structured environment for local youth, especially during the summer and after school, is growing exponentially,” stated Boys & Girls Clubs Executive Director, Dick Hanlin. “Thanks to the generosity of dedicated community members and businesses, the funds raised at our auction will ultimately strengthen our efforts and ability to meet this issue head-on.”

Hosted by Master of Ceremonies, Dave Cotton from KHQ, more than 320 guests attended the annual event which included a live and silent auction as well as a Diamond Draw for a stunning Mokar gold and diamond necklace provided by Jewelry Design Center. Throughout the evening guests were also treated to the musical stylings of local pianist Jimmy Finn and Seattle’s hottest new band – *Type A!*

Adding to the evening was a special appearance by both past and present Club kids. Featured in the event video, Daniel Anderson, Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County’s Youth of the Year in 2004 and 2006 as well as Major League Baseball’s inaugural Star Award winner for the Pacific Region in 2007, appeared on stage after dinner to share his personal struggle. In a speech that resonated throughout the crowd, Daniel gave a voice to the thousands of Boys & Girls Club members who have come through the Club system over the years and in turn found success in school and in life. Now a junior at Eastern Washington University, Daniel invited 30 members of the Northtown Club Choir to the stage to perform an original song dedicated to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County.

The 10th annual Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County Dinner and Auction will be held in February 2012. Details will be posted to the web site as they become available.

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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 4,000 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 (Open 3pm – 7pm).

For more information about the Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane, visit www.bgcspokanecounty.org

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