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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MACY'S THANKS FOR SHARING HOLIDAY PROGRAM RAISES \$21,465 FOR THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF SPOKANE COUNTY

SPOKANE, WASHINGTON (Monday, April 4) – Macy's Northwest recently announced that their 2010 *Thanks For Sharing* Holiday program raised \$21,465 to strengthen and expand the critical services and programs provided at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County. This donation will directly support the Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County with proceeds funding education programs that enable more than 4,000 Club members to become proficient in basic educational disciplines, set goals, explore careers, prepare for employment and embrace technology to achieve a great future.

Through Macy's Thanks for Sharing holiday campaign, shoppers were encouraged to charge a one-time enrollment fee of \$25 to their Macy's credit card, in turn, a portion of this fee was donated to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County. As an additional benefit, customers received a 10 percent reward on their credit card purchases as well.

"We are extremely grateful for the Macy's Thanks for Sharing campaign since so many of the young people we serve need the most, but have the least," said Dick Hanlin, Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County. "We believe there is no better investment than our nation's youth especially when it comes to ensuring their academic success, so essential to the prosperity of our community."

According to the Education Research Center, only 69.6 percent of public school students graduate from high school on time with a diploma. BGCA's graduation strategy – Be Great: Graduate – aims to ensure that all Club members progress on time each year to the next grade level.

Boys & Girls Club staff do this by discussing the importance of education and high school graduation; recognizing academic successes, including homework completion, grade improvement and progression; and implementing educational programming that teaches members new skills and reinforces those needed to be successful in school.

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Boys & Girls Clubs of America and Macy's share the belief that out-of-school time is an important factor in the overall education equation and the retailer's donation to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County will ensure a great future for local at-risk youth.

About Macy's Thanks for Sharing Campaign

Macy's Northwest's and Southwest's campaign benefits Boys & Girls Clubs in the states of: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. The Thanks for Sharing Campaign concluded on December 31, 2010.

Since 2002, Macy's customers and employees have contributed more than \$8 million to local Boys & Girls Clubs in Macy's Northwest and Southwest Regions.

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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