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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF SPOKANE COUNTY RECEIVES \$15,000 TO ENHANCE FINE ARTS PROGRAMS FOR AT-RISK YOUTH

SPOKANE, WASHINGTON (Friday, June 10) – At-risk youth at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County will now have the opportunity to explore their creativity with the help of a \$15,000 Fine Arts grant from the Inland Northwest Community Foundation. The Fine Arts program that is currently serving members at one of the Clubs will now expand to all three of the Clubhouses located in both Spokane and Mead. Through the program, members will be encouraged to develop new skills and talents, as well as learn to express themselves and expand his or her individual creativity. At the same time, these creative activities are designed to help contribute to improved academic performance; a goal of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County.

This critical funding will be used to enhance the current program and provide additional art instruction, supplies, exhibits, and displays. The big reward for Club artists will be the opportunity to participate in the annual Boys & Girls Clubs Fine Arts Exhibits. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County will convene a high profile Fine Arts Exhibit which will be displayed in local high traffic areas such as lobbies of hotels, banks, and businesses. Many of these exceptional pieces will also be selected and entered in the local, regional, and national Boys & Girls Clubs Fine Arts Exhibit competition.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County also hopes to continue its partnership with the Museum of Arts and Culture (MAC), which is hosting a Leonardo da Vinci: Man, Inventor, Genius, exhibit this summer. In preparation for this exhibit, the Clubs will provide classes taught by real artists to give members historical background and hands on experiences that will enable the youth to fully comprehend da Vinci's inventions and masterpieces.

“It is unfortunate that young people are lacking exposure to the arts due to the budget cuts and disappearing art programs in schools,” said Dick Hanlin, Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County. “We are ecstatic to be able to expose Spokane’s most at-risk youth to these amazing fields; the arts and humanities offer endless opportunities for building resiliency in youth. These rich and inexhaustible resources help young people learn and grow in healthy ways.”

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About The Inland Northwest Community Foundation

Inland Northwest Community Foundation (INWCF) is accredited by the Council on Foundations and is your community foundation for the Inland Northwest.

Staff and volunteers work with people like you who care about our region to meet your charitable goals. We help you (individuals, families, businesses and nonprofit organizations) create funds to support charitable causes within our region and beyond. We honor our donors' intent and ensure that grants help build vibrant and sustainable communities in the Inland Northwest.

For more information about the Inland Northwest Community Foundation, visit www.inwcf.org.

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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