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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIGHTING AMERICA'S HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT CRISIS, LOCAL TACO BELL RESTAURANTS AWARD \$9,200 TO THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF SPOKANE COUNTY

Spokane, Washington (September 19, 2011) Dedicated to enhancing lives of at-risk youth, the Taco Bell Foundation for Teens recently awarded \$9,200 to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County to support real world experience programs that help teens stay in school and graduate towards a better life. Through Taco Bell's Graduate to Go experience grant, 40 teens from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County were able to tour college campuses around the state including Gonzaga University and Central Washington University as well as take a trip to Seattle where they visited a number of college campuses, toured Microsoft and spent time getting to know teens at other Boys & Girls Clubs.

"We are honored to be recognized by the Taco Bell Foundation for Teens for our long-time commitment to teen graduation and success," said Dick Hanlin, Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County. "It's because of partnerships like this that we are able to offer exciting career and college programs that ultimately help inspire our members to stay committed to earn their high school degree, dream big and be great."

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County is part of more than 350 organizations nationwide to receive a portion of a \$2.2 million Graduate to Go grant from the Foundation. Graduate To Go™ is a long-term effort, launched by the Taco Bell Foundation for Teens, to raise awareness of the high-school dropout crisis and encourage teens to get their diploma. The initiative funds real-world experiences, such as job training and college preparation, proven to motivate teens to stay in school. Funds were raised through local Taco Bell restaurant owners and its customers.

By the Numbers

The high school dropout rates are staggering in America, with one student dropping out of high school every 26 seconds. More than 30 percent of teens in the U.S. and up to 50 percent of Latinos and African Americans fail to graduate with their class. Dropouts are more likely than high school graduates to be unemployed, in poor health, living in poverty, in prison, or on public assistance.**

"The teen graduation crisis is a major hurdle for America as we strive to remain an innovative and powerful global leader," said Bob Fulmer, Executive Director, Taco Bell Foundation for Teens. "The vital partnerships and programs we are funding today allow Taco Bell to help teens build a foundation for a future success through the vehicle of graduation."

About the Taco Bell Foundation for Teens

The Taco Bell Foundation, Inc., dba 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 \$28 million to support teen programs at Boys & Girls Clubs of America and other teen-serving organizations with the help of on-going customer, franchisee and employee donations. For more information about TBFT, visit www.tacobellfoundationforteens.org.

About Taco Bell Corp.

Taco Bell Corp. ("Taco Bell"), a subsidiary of Yum! Brands, Inc., (NYSE: YUM), is the nation's leading Mexican-style quick service restaurant chain. Taco Bell serves tacos, burritos, signature quesadillas, Grilled Stuff Burritos, nachos, and other specialty items such as Crunchwrap Supreme®, in addition to the 79-89-99 WHY PAY MORE™! Value Menu. Taco Bell serves more than 36.8 million consumers each week in nearly 5,600 restaurants in the U.S.

About Boys & Girls Clubs of America

For more than 100 years, Boys & Girls Clubs of America (www.bgca.org) has enabled young people, especially those who need Clubs most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. Today, more than 4,000 Boys & Girls Clubs serve more than 4 million young people through Club membership and community outreach. Clubs can be found throughout the country and on U.S. military installations worldwide, providing young people 6-18 years old with guidance-oriented character development programs conducted by trained, professional staff. Key programs emphasize leadership development; education and career exploration; community service; technology training; financial literacy; health and life skills; the arts; sports, fitness and recreation; and family outreach. In a Harris Survey of alumni, 57 percent said the Club saved their lives. National headquarters are located in Atlanta.

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; the Libby Teen Center and the Lisa Stiles-Gyllenhammer Mead Branch.

For more information about the Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane, find us on Facebook or visit www.bgcspokanecounty.org

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