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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### LOCAL APPLEBEE'S RESTAURANT PARTNERS WITH BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF SPOKANE COUNTY TO CELEBRATE YOUTH OF THE MONTH WINNERS

*Monthly winners to sit at special table dedicated to the Boys & Girls Club and receive a free meal at Applebee's*

SPOKANE, WASHINGTON (Thursday, June 10) – On Wednesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, twelve Youth of the Month winners representing the Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County's Northtown Branch and Lisa Stiles-Gyllenhammer Branch, became the inaugural group to receive a special afternoon out and a free meal at Applebee's. As part of a new community partnership to celebrate the accomplishments of local at-risk youth, Applebee's has also dedicated Booth 64 at its Northpointe restaurant which will permanently feature local Club kids and their great achievements. Over the course of the year Applebee's will host and provide a free meal to 144 Boys & Girls Club winners.

"Applebee's is the perfect partner to help us celebrate the great strides and accomplishments of our kids throughout the year, said Alise Delzell, Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane's Operations Director. "Their support and generosity will give these kids, most that are at-risk, incentive to reach for the stars and choose to have a better life."

As part of its National "Youth of the Year" program, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County selects twelve winners each month that have excelled in categories that correspond to the organization's five focus programs: Education and Career Development, Character and Leadership Development, Health and Life Skills, The Arts and Sports, Fitness and Recreation. Nominated by mentors, program leaders and staff, Club kids between 6-18 years of age are eligible to be selected and later included in the running for "Youth of the Year."

"The Youth of the Month winners are amazing kids and we couldn't be prouder of their accomplishments inside and outside of the Club," stated Mike Packwood, Applebee's General Manager. "We believe that *'there's no place like the neighborhood'* and this was the perfect opportunity for Applebee's to give back to the local community and its youth."

#### **About Applebee's**

Founded nearly three decades ago on the principles of exceptional value and family fun, Applebee's Services, Inc., operates what is today the largest casual-dining chain in the world. This prominent eatery draws people of all ages and lifestyles with its fun, family-friendly atmosphere and signature bar and grill menu.

Applebee's Services Inc., and its affiliates, franchise and operate restaurants under Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar and are a DineEquity, Inc. (NYSE: DIN) brand. Currently, there are over 1990 Applebee's restaurants operating system-wide in 49 states, 15 international countries and one U.S. territory. The Applebee's system employs approximately 28,000 employees company-wide.

**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 2,400 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 new Lisa Stiles-Gyllenhammer Mead Branch (Open 3pm – 7pm). The Boys & Girls Clubs also provides an Early Bird Summer Program to alleviate the pressure put on busy working parents during the summer months when kids are out of school (Open 7am – 6pm).

For more information about the Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane, visit [www.bgcspokanecounty.org](http://www.bgcspokanecounty.org)

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