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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS *DAY FOR KIDS* SET FOR SEPTEMBER 25; CLUBS PREPARE FOR FUN-FILLED DAY CELEBRATING KIDS

Spending Meaningful Time Could Change a Child's Life

SPOKANE, WASHINGTON (Friday, September 10) The Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County is teeing up to celebrate “Boys & Girls Clubs Day for Kids,” (BGC Day for Kids) a major annual family event highlighting the value of meaningful time between caring adults and children. In Spokane, the 9th annual BGC Day for Kids will be celebrated on Saturday, September 25th from noon – 3:00 pm with hundreds of parents and kids participating in fun events at the Northtown Club located at 544 E. Providence Avenue. Free to the public, the Day For Kids event will include fun outdoor activities, inflatable jumpers, and contests as well as tasty food and prize giveaways.

Unlike most other industrialized nations, the U.S. is one of the few nations that does not have an official day set aside to honor its young people. In a country ranked first in wealth and productivity, we do not have a day in which we recognize our most precious resource. While many Americans recognize the link between spending meaningful time with their kids and the tough issues facing young people, they say they don’t have the time, skills or resources to do as much for their children as they feel they should.

“We created Boys & Girls Clubs Day for Kids to foster stronger relationships between adults and children by educating them on the importance and value of spending meaningful time together,” said Alise Delzell, Operations Director of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County. “BGC Day for Kids provides an opportunity for parents and caring adults to reconnect and get reenergized about helping our young people reach their full potential.”

It’s no secret that America’s youth need our help. From academic failure and gang activity to poverty, drugs and violence, they face a daunting array of problems – with serious consequences and fewer safety nets at home and in the community. BGC Day for kids is one small step in rebuilding “villages” in our neighborhoods; providing young people with the skills and motivation they need to BE GREAT, while protecting them from the dangerous problems they face every day.

Regardless of background, there are no boundaries to the potential of every child. In the same way, there are no limits to the many ways in which to spend meaningful time with a young person. To assist parents, practitioners and other caring adults, BGCA has created engaging educational resources to help them encourage and develop positive relationships with kids. A year-round web site, www.dayforkids.org, will provide tools, resources and tips that support their interactions with young people.

An estimated 1,500 Day for Kids events are planned nationwide (all events open to the public) including:

- Dallas – More than 3,000 youth will enjoy a day at the Hawaiian Falls Waterpark, including games, face painting and live entertainment.
- NYC – A street festival in the Bronx, including song and dance, performances by local artists, a back-to-school fashion show, a health fair and equipment from the NY Police and Fire Departments will be a part of the festival for more than 5,000 attendees.
- D.C. – Approximately 1,500 community members will enjoy a street celebration with food, fun, games and entertainment.

Boys & Girls Clubs of America leads the national campaign with support from several non-profit partners, including America's Promise, Association of Children's Museums, Association for Library Services to Children, Communities in Schools, Easter Seals, Youth Services to America, Kids Sports Network and Home Safety Council.

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 nearly 3,000 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 on the Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County or plans for the 2010 Day For Kids, please visit www.bgcspokanecounty.org or call 509-489-0741.

About Boys & Girls Clubs of America

For more than 100 years, Boys & Girls Clubs of America (www.bgca.org) has been changing and saving young lives, providing hope and opportunity for kids who need them most. Today, some 4,300 Clubs serve some 4.8 million young people through Club membership and community outreach. Known as The Positive Place for Kids, Boys & Girls Clubs can be found all across the country and on U.S. military bases throughout the world. Clubs provide young people 6-18 years old with guidance-oriented character development programs conducted by trained, professional staff. In communities large and small, Clubs positively impact lives and help young people reach their full potential as productive, caring citizens. Key Boys & Girls Club programs emphasize leadership development; education and career exploration; community service; financial literacy; health and life skills; the arts; sports, fitness and recreation; and family outreach. In a recent Harris Survey of Club alumni, 57 percent said the Club saved their life. National headquarters are located in Atlanta.

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