



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF SPOKANE COUNTY



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CARNIVAL KICKS OFF GRAND OPENING OF KIDS CAFE® AT LISA STILES- GYLLENHAMMER BOYS & GIRLS CLUB IN MEAD

Partnership with Second Harvest Inland Northwest Supports At-Risk Kids

SPOKANE, WASHINGTON (Thursday, May 20) – On Thursday, June 10, the recently opened Lisa Stiles-Gyllenhammer Boys & Girls Club in Mead will host a “Ride Into Summer” Carnival for the public from 5 to 7 p.m. The carnival also will officially kick off another Second Harvest Kids Cafe, a children’s nutrition program in Spokane.

People of all ages are invited to enjoy a great family event that includes carnival-style games, activities and food. The money raised during the “Ride Into Summer” Carnival will be used to help offset costs for school buses to transport hundreds of kids to the Boys & Girls Club after school from Shiloh Hills Elementary and Evergreen Elementary. At the same time as the carnival, Second Harvest Inland Northwest will hold a Mobile Food Bank outside the Mead Boys & Girls Club location. Area families and seniors in need are encouraged to stop by and receive nutritious food items, including fresh produce and other wholesome groceries.

The Boys & Girls Club will host Second Harvest’s Kids Cafe program for more than 500 elementary-aged children per week at three locations. Kids Cafe provides healthy snacks – free of charge – on weekdays to children participating in the Boys & Girls Club’s after-school and summer programs. The hearty snacks will include dairy, protein-rich products, juices, and fresh fruits and vegetables.

Kids Cafe, a nationwide program launched in 1993 by Feeding America, has 1,700 locations across the nation providing free meals and snacks to children from low-income families. Second Harvest opened the first Kids Cafe in the state of Washington in 2008 at the Northeast Youth Center in Hillyard. Currently, Second Harvest is operating Kids Cafes at 14 locations in Spokane and 11 sites in the Tri-Cities with various partners who provide a safe environment for children after school and during the summer months.

Food provided through Second Harvest’s Kids Cafe at the Boys & Girls Clubs will augment the snack currently given to each child daily, providing a substantial offering that promotes healthy eating with servings of dairy, fresh fruit and grains. The nutritious food will also impact the hundreds of kids who participate in the Boys & Girls Club’s “Early Bird” program during the summer, ensuring that each of them have a healthy breakfast.

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“The partnership we have with Second Harvest and its Kids Cafe program is critical to our ability to provide food every day to hundreds of at-risk kids in Spokane,” stated Alise Delzell, Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County’s operations director. “The food we provide is sometimes the only thing that many of our kids eat during the day and because of this generous and continued support, we will be able to instill in each of them a healthy lifestyle that will hopefully last the rest of their lives.”

“Through Kids Cafe, Second Harvest and the Spokane Boys & Girls Club will work together to help Spokane children get the healthy food they need to learn, grow and reach their full potential,” said Jason Clark, executive director of Second Harvest. “Second Harvest is thrilled to expand the nutrition offered along with the Boys & Girls Club’s dynamic programs, which already are positively impacting so many kids’ lives in Spokane.”

Carnival tickets went on sale June 1. Please contact the Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County at (509) 368-9175 or visit www.bgcspokanecounty.org for additional information or to purchase tickets. For more information about Kids Cafe, contact Rod Wieber, Second Harvest’s director of donor and community relations, at (509) 252-6259. Information also is available online at www.2-harvest.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 2,800 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).

For more information about the Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane, visit www.bgcspokanecounty.org

About Second Harvest Inland Northwest

Founded in 1971 as a central warehouse for a handful of emergency food pantries in Spokane, Second Harvest is the pioneering organization that leads the fight against hunger in the Inland Northwest. Today, partnerships with 275 neighborhood food banks and meal centers make it possible for Second Harvest to provide food to thousands of hungry people each week. Second Harvest's food bank network spans 21 counties in Eastern Washington and five counties in North Idaho – just over 51,000 square miles. Second Harvest distributes more than one million pounds of donated food each month throughout its vast service area. Second Harvest’s food helps fill the nutritional gap for people in poverty, the working poor, elderly and disabled people on very low fixed incomes, and children and families in temporary crisis.

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