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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF SPOKANE COUNTRY WELCOMES HUNDREDS TO GRAND OPENING OF NEW MEAD CLUB**

*The Lisa Stiles-Gyllenhammer Boys & Girls Club To Provide Critical After-School Services To Area Youth*

**SPOKANE, WASHINGTON** (Monday, April 19) – Backed by extensive community support, the Boys & Girls of Spokane County held its grand opening and welcomed hundreds of adults and children of all ages into the highly anticipated Lisa Stiles-Gyllenhammer Club today. Set in the old Mead Middle School and in partnership with Mead Public Schools, the Lisa Stiles-Gyllenhammer Club is now the third Club operating in Spokane County – the Boys & Girls Club also runs programs out of the Northtown branch and the Libby Teen Center.

Carrying on the mission of all Boys & Girls Clubs to help every child reach his/her potential, the Lisa Stiles-Gyllenhammer Club will provide services to kids between the ages of 6 and 18 and offer daily access to a broad range of programs in five Core Program Areas: Education and Career Development, Character and Leadership Development, Health and Life Skills, The Arts and Sports, Fitness and Recreation. With nearly 22,000 square feet of space and a generous outpouring of community and corporate support, the facility includes a Gymnasium, Kitchen and Nutrition Center, Game Room, Computer Education and Technology Center, Recording Studio, Performing Arts Center, Science and Discovery Center, Teen Center, Fine Arts Center and a Community Resource Center. Dedicated to Lisa Stiles-Gyllenhammer, a beloved teacher at Shiloh Hills Elementary who lost a long and brave battle with breast cancer in January of 2006, this club will continue her legacy of impassioned excellence and going the extra mile for her kids EVERY time.

“Our organization’s focus has always been to provide critical support, on-going encouragement and a safe place for at-risk youth in Spokane’s most disadvantaged communities,” stated Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County President/CEO Ryan Davenport. “With the opening of our third branch, the Lisa Stiles-Gyllenhammer Club, we are able to greatly expand our reach and provide necessary life saving programs to more than 2,500 youth in need, including those neighborhoods previously untapped on the North side.”

On hand to celebrate this historic day in the Mead community were numerous Community Champions and speakers including Co-Chairs Steve Mumm (Debbie Mumm Inc.) and Aaron P. Reilly (Bank of America) as well as Spokane County Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich, Shiloh Hills Elementary Principal Heather Havens, Evergreen Elementary School Principal Jon Iverson, Chris Stiles, brother of Lisa Stiles-Gyllenhammer, Boys & Girls Clubs Board President Chad Burchard (Inland Northwest Bank) and President/CEO Ryan Davenport.

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### **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 2,500 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](http://www.bgcspokanecounty.org)

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