



Contact: Erin Freehan
Special Events/Marketing Director
Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County
544 East Providence Ave.
Spokane, WA 99207
(509)-489-0741
www.bgcspokanecounty.org
efreehan@bgcspokanecounty.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE RAIKES FOUNDATION AWARDS \$25,000 TO SUPPORT POSITIVE CHOICE PROGRAMMING AT THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF SPOKANE COUNTY

SPOKANE, WASHINGTON (Tuesday, December 21) – As part of their Youth Program Quality Initiative to support successful programming for adolescents in the state, the Raikes Foundation recently awarded \$25,000 to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County. This funding will be used to enhance the SMART Moves program that teaches young people (ages 10 – 14 years old) how to resist alcohol, tobacco and other drug use, as well as premature sexual activity.

Aligned with the mission of the Raikes Foundation, the SMART Moves program features engaging, interactive, small-group activities that increase participants' peer support, enhance their life skills, build their resiliency and strengthen their leadership skills. This year-round program at the Northtown Club encourages collaborations among Club staff, youth, parents and representatives from other community organizations.

“In today’s culture, young people are faced with more negative influences and situations than ever before, especially at the critical pre-teen ages,” stated Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County’s Operations Director, Alise Delzell. “Thanks to our new community partnership with the Raikes Foundation, we will be able to expose our most vulnerable youth to positive role models and information that will keep them on track to succeed in life.”

Founded by former Microsoft employees Tricia and Jeffrey Raikes, the Raikes Foundation focuses on funding programs that provide at-risk youth with consistent relationships with caring adults that will empower them to make positive choices in becoming healthy and productive adults in the future. As the parents of three children, they understand the unique challenges that young people face in today’s complex world, especially during those difficult adolescent years when youth are more susceptible to making poor choices that can affect their future.

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 3,700 area youth between the ages of 6 - 18, The Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County operates three Clubs year-round, Monday through Friday. 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, visit www.bgcspokanecounty.org

###