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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF SPOKANE COUNTY RECEIVES \$225,000 GRANT TO PROMOTE EDUCATION AND KEEP KIDS IN SCHOOL

Panhandle State Bank/Intermountain Community Bank Awards \$225,000 Over Five Years To High School Drop-Out Prevention Program

SPOKANE, WASHINGTON (Wednesday, November 3) – In a continued effort to keep kids in school, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County secured a major victory thanks to a five year, \$225,000 grant from Panhandle State Bank/Intermountain Community Bank for the *Every Member, Every Year* program. This funding will positively affect thousands of Spokane’s most at-risk youth and help the organization spearhead efforts to reduce the County’s high school drop-out rate of 30%.

Right now, America is facing an uncertain future because we are losing a child every 26 seconds! Yes, every 26 seconds another young person drops out of high school – one of the highest rates of any industrialized country in the world. The *Every Member, Every Year* program is central to reversing this alarming trend through academic enrichment and school engagement – creating a learning-rich environment where every Club member is expected to move up in school every year – ultimately graduating high school and preparing for real-world success.

“As the leader in youth development and education-rich programs, the *Every Member, Every Year* program has had a profound and measurable impact on our members and improved their desire to succeed in school and in life,” stated Alise Delzell, Operations Director of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County. “With a generous multi-year donation from the Panhandle State Bank/Intermountain Community Bank, we will be able to sustain our efforts to help Spokane’s youth graduate from high school and ultimately compete for the workforce of tomorrow.”

About the *Every Member, Every Year* Program

Every Member, Every Year is our way of establishing an academic success plan to help and encourage kids at-risk of dropping out of school. By creating a solid infrastructure and focusing on three measurable goals: (1) every member is promoted every year to the next grade level, (2) every member graduates from high school and (3) every member is fully prepared to achieve real-world success in college, career, and life, this program has historically proven to increase engagement in school and learning and improve academic success. *Every Member, Every Year* participants receive a free tutor, usually from a local college, that will meet him/her at the Club once a week and serve as their champion – helping work on schoolwork and providing youth with a friend and mentor. For more information about the *Every Member, Every Year* Program, please contact Kelly Moody, Education Director at (509) 489-0741 or kmoody@bgcspokanecounty.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 3,700 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 Lisa Stiles-Gyllenhammer Mead Branch (Open 3pm – 7pm).

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