



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Community Foundation for Southwest Washington Awards \$50,000 in Scholarships to Members of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southwest Washington

Vancouver, Wash., June 13, 2011 — Nearly 250 students, parents and educators gathered at the Clinton & Gloria John Clubhouse to celebrate the end of a successful year in programming, which included an integrative College Prep Program. The center's fourth annual End of the Year BBQ included the usual activity-filled community barbecue, but was highlighted by the announcement of a new scholarship fund at the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington that benefits student members of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southwest Washington. A scholarship award ceremony followed the announcement and awarded nine deserving students with the first scholarships, which added up to \$50,000 in funds.

“We started the College Prep Program to make higher education a required standard, and these scholarships allow the students to get continued support even after they head off to college” Francisco Bueno, Program Manager for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southwest Washington, said.

The College Scholarship for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southwest Washington Fund was established at the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington by an anonymous donor who wanted to further bolster the club's College Prep Program. The prep program supports the club's overall mission of helping students realize their full potential as productive, caring and responsible citizens by inspiring the dream of higher education.

By providing an environment that encourages continuing education, which includes the support and guidance necessary to achieve academic success, the program hopes to emphasize the

connection between college and career. Its integrated approach follows first grade students up through the high school ranks, and offers programming such as community speakers, financial aid instruction and campus visits. For Boys & Girls Clubs of Southwest Washington members, it now includes annual scholarships from the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington.

“Scholarships are a great way to engage, challenge and reward students for aspiring toward their college dreams, and the Boys & Girls Clubs now have that built into their programming,”

Richard Melching, President of the Community Foundation, said. “It broadens their ability to emphasize higher education by creating an incentive and making college tuition less daunting.”

Haylea Close, one of this year’s scholarship recipients, has been active with the club since second grade. During this time, her commitment to the club, community and her family awarded her the title of 2011 Youth of the Year—the highest honor a member can receive. Close, who plans to attend Washington State University-Vancouver for an electrical engineering degree, is a great example of how the right opportunities can help students overcome personal challenges.

About the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington

Established in 1984, The Community Foundation helps a broad cross section of citizens build stronger communities through effective philanthropy. One of the nation’s 700 community foundations, it is a tax-exempt, public charity that primarily serves southwest Washington. Governed by a volunteer Board of local leaders, the Foundation offers services to donors and nonprofit organizations, as well as a wide range of benefits to the community.

About Boys & Girls Clubs of Southwest Washington

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Southwest Washington are open to all youth, grades 1st - 12th, and have a special focus on children and teens from challenging or disadvantaged circumstances. Clubs reach out to children in need, giving them support, guidance and hope for the future. The Boys & Girls Clubs provide programming in specialized areas, including character development, educational enhancement and career exploration. For more information about BGCSW, please visit www.facebook.com/mybgc

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