



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MAY 4, 2018**

Contact: Ryan Scott, Vice President/CDO  
425.454.6162 / [rscott@bgcbellevue.org](mailto:rscott@bgcbellevue.org)

### **SENATOR MURRAY VISITS BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF BELLEVUE**

*Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue a leader in providing critical services!*

**BELLEVUE, WA** – As part of a statewide tour of highly effective after-school and early learning programs, U.S. Senator Patty Murray visited Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue to learn how the Club is actively filling the gaps for families in Bellevue.



During her visit, Senator Murray met with the Club’s 2018 Youth of the Year, Yana Shabanov who shared the challenges she faced in school and at home including bullying and domestic violence. “The Club has given me a safe place to evolve and become a young, empowered woman. The people inside this program have helped me become who I am today.” Yana is graduating from Sammamish High School this spring and is pursuing a career in social work.



Senator Murray also visited the Club’s *Great Futures Preschool* to meet the next generation of leaders. The Club’s preschool program, in the community for more than 40 years, ensures kids are ready to enter elementary school through social interaction and high-yield learning opportunities. “Although, preschool is atypical for Boys & Girls Clubs nationally, we know it is a very important need in our community”, says Kathy Haggart, President/CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue. “We want to make sure every child is ready to enter school and our preschool program does just that.”

Finally, Senator Murray met with Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue’s executive staff and key partners to learn why the Club is a model for effective community partnerships, which serve Bellevue families.

***“It’s impossible to overstate the role a quality education plays in a child’s long-term success, and we should be doing everything in our power to prepare the next generation with the skills they will need to thrive in a 21st century economy. That’s what makes the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue and its focus on providing impactful,***



*high-quality programs for local youth one of East King County’s most cherished assets – from its innovative preschool program offering families critical access to affordable early learning and care, to strategic community partnerships that provide dynamic supplemental educational resources and opportunities to youth across the county,” said Senator Murray. “I was proud of our recent work in Congress to protect and strengthen investments in early learning and after school programs like those at BGCB that provide additional learning and social development opportunities for our nation’s future leaders, and will continue fighting to defend and expand these investments for working families in Washington State and around the country.”*

Emphasized was the 25+ year partnership with King County Housing Authority; Boys & Girls Clubs operates Clubhouses in and near KCHA properties to ensure families have access to high quality programs, state-of-the-art technology and consistent snacks and meals.

Kids Quest Children’s Museum was also highlighted as a key partner who is currently working with Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue, the Bellevue School District and other local partners to collectively serve the more than 260 homeless families in Bellevue through stable, consistent after-school and summer programming.

---

#### **ABOUT BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF BELLEVUE**

Founded in 1952, Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue serves more than 11,000 members and families through 13 Clubhouses located in Bellevue. BGCB provides a safe, fun place that encourages kids to choose healthy lifestyles, get involved in their communities and achieve academic success. The Club’s mission is to inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. To learn more about Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue, please visit [www.bgbellevue.org](http://www.bgbellevue.org).