

BE GREAT



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF BELLEVUE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information please contact:

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CITI FOUNDATION PARTNERS WITH BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS TO KEEP KIDS IN SCHOOL!

BELLEVUE, WA, November 25, 2009 - The Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue today announced that The Citi Foundation recently provided a \$15,000 grant to support its college preparatory program for Bellevue-area low-to-moderate income (LMI) high school students.

Nationally, nearly 30 percent of high school students are at risk of dropping out of high school. To address this growing problem, the Citi Foundation has partnered with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue to ensure local high school students stay in school.

Focusing on a new program initiative called *Be Great, Graduate*, the Citi Foundation and the Boys & Girls Clubs will actively work with local high school students to help them stay in school and pursue higher education. In the first year, the Club will provide 50 to 75 at-risk students with crucial resources, including academic support, one-on-one tutoring, leadership opportunities, and direct access to state-of-the-art technology.

"This is an extremely important project," said Craig Olson of the Citi Private Bank and longtime Boys & Girls Clubs Board Member. "The *Be Great Graduate* program is critical to ensuring the next generation has the necessary skills and knowledge to be successful in our community."

"Citi is proud to support the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue in its effort to help more of our youth attend college," said Cheryl Evans, Citi Community Relations Western Regional Director. "A college education is a crucial first step to a brighter future and a fulfilling career. By offering this support, we can ensure that more of our kids reach their full potential."

The *Be Great, Graduate* program was designed in response to local and national high school drop-out trends.

ABOUT BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF BELLEVUE

Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue was established in 1952. Currently the organization has 12 sites throughout the City of Bellevue and serves children 2 ½ - 18 years of age. Club programs include the Project Learn After-school Program, structured athletic leagues, Preschool, and Teen specific programming.

For more information about Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue, please call 425-454-6262 or visit the Club's website at www.bgcbellevue.org

Citi Foundation

The Citi Foundation is committed to the economic empowerment of individuals and families, particularly those in need, in the communities where we work so that they can improve their standard of living. Globally, the Citi Foundation targets its strategic giving on its priority focus areas: Microfinance and Microenterprise, Small and Growing Businesses, Education, and Financial Education and Asset Building. In the United States and Canada, the Citi Foundation also supports Community Development programs. The Citi Foundation works with its partners in Microfinance and Microenterprise, Small and Growing Businesses, and Community Development to support environmental programs and innovations. Additional information can be found at www.citifoundation.com.

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