

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT: David Armanasco
Armanasco Public Relations, Inc.
831-372-2259
darmanasco@armanaso.com

Boys & Girls Clubs of Monterey County Announces Federal Grant for Gang Prevention Program

*Department of Justice awards \$325,000, at a key time as
BGCMC integrates with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Monterey County*

MONTEREY, CALIF. – The Boys & Girls Clubs of Monterey County (BGCMC) announced today that the Department of Justice has awarded the Clubs a \$325,000 grant for their Gang Prevention through Targeted Outreach Initiative. This evidence-based Initiative helps children and young adults – who are vital to our community and its future – grow, achieve and reach their full potential.

These federal funds will assist BGCMC in growing the benefits of Club Membership. They are able to mentor 200 additional youth, with special emphasis on the Alisal community, which is afflicted by gang influence and will very much benefit from a strong Boys & Girls Club presence.

“We would like to thank Congressman Farr for his work in bringing federal attention and resources to our county’s alarming gang problem. He has increased investment in prevention and youth development strategies that help our youth stay out of gangs. With Congressman Farr’s help, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Monterey County can better inspire and empower youth to realize their full potential as responsible, healthy, productive and successful citizens,” said Donna Ferraro, CEO and President of BGCMC.

Phil Wilhelm, Vice Chair of Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) also announced today that they are integrating BBBS into the BGCMC programs as another step forward in best serving Monterey County youth. This merger maximizes resources and eliminates duplicative overhead. Less administrative expenses allocates more resources to engage volunteer mentors and provide impactful mentoring services.

BGCMC will be able to serve more youth and increase the reach and effectiveness of their comprehensive Mentoring Initiative. Now, in addition to the general group and peer mentoring services of the BGCMC, this merger allows for more one-to-one mentoring, including Bigs & Littles mentoring relationships.

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About the Boys & Girls Clubs of Monterey County

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Monterey County has played an integral role in the community for over 40 years, providing daily programs and services to nearly 800 young people in their Seaside and Salinas Clubhouses. Over 95 percent of the budget supporting the two Clubhouses comes from generous individuals, corporations and foundations. The Clubs are open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. during summer and school breaks, and from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. when school is in session. Additional information is available at www.bgcmc.org or via phone at (831) 394-5171.