

Boys & Girls Club in New Jersey receives \$60,000 grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation to prepare youth in career exploration and job readiness

Clifton, NJ, December 18, 2015 — The Boys and Girls Club in New Jersey (BGCNJ) has been awarded a \$60,000 grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation to support the Career Launch program at Boys & Girls Clubs in Clifton, Jersey City, Hoboken, Newark, Paterson, Elizabeth, Plainfield, Garfield, Hawthorne and Lodi. The Career Launch program prepares young people, ages 13 – 18, to enter the work force, advance from “job” to “career” and become self-sufficient adults. The program works with each youth to identify the career that best fits the members’ skills and interests. Career Launch includes an interactive website, classroom instruction, guest presentations from professionals in various fields of study, job search assistance, on the job training and internship opportunities.

“We’re incredibly grateful to the Wells Fargo Foundation for providing funding to BGCNJ to support career exploration and job readiness programming to youth across the Garden State. This grant will enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, citizens in the workforce,” said Susan Haspel, State Director, Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey.

Wells Fargo’s Northern New Jersey Commercial Regional Vice President Toby Babeuf recently presented the grant to the BGCNJ and local leadership team as well as Club youth, at the Boys and Girls Club of Newark’s Avon Avenue location. “We’re proud to support BGCNJ and its mission to build and strengthen families in our great state,” said Babeuf. “The organization provides a safe and nurturing place for children to play, learn, and develop into future leaders and responsible citizens.”

About Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey

Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey is an alliance of 23 Club organizations serving over 70,000 youth ages 5 - 18 in more than 65 communities throughout the Garden State. Clubs seek to inspire and enable young people from all backgrounds, especially those who need them most, to achieve their full potential as productive adults and responsible citizens. The organization is part of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America network of over 4,000 neighborhood-based facilities which serves more than 4.6 million young people annually, in all 50 states and on U.S. military bases worldwide. Boys & Girls Club programs offer hope and opportunity to youth by emphasizing leadership development; education and career exploration; financial literacy; health and life skills; sports, fitness and recreation; and the arts. More information about Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey is available at <http://www.bgcnj.org>.