



## **8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF BOSTON CYBERSUMMIT CHALLENGES YOUTH TO BECOME “TECH EXECS”**

### ***Youth Develop Real-World Technology Skills***

**(Boston, MA)** — Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston hosted its 8<sup>th</sup> Annual CyberSummit on April 24 - 25 at the Blue Hill Boys & Girls Club, 15 Talbot Avenue, Dorchester. This year’s theme, “Tech Execs,” provided opportunities for Club members to work with industry leaders, such as Google and the Boston Neighborhood Network, and taught them skills in technology and software, such as After Effects CS3 and Google Adwords. The goal of the event was to ensure teens learned the advanced skills needed to succeed in ‘executive’ roles within the technology field. More than 60 youth, ages 12 to 18, were challenged in digital music, architecture, graphic design, engineering and other computer-generated areas that focused on the “TechExec” theme.

CyberSummit provides a positive activity for youth during school vacation week and helps build community relationships while teens work in inter-neighborhood teams. From gaining hands-on experience in the post-production studio at the Boston Neighborhood Network to designing mixed media self portraits, teens utilized their newly acquired skills to meet their assigned challenges. Teens from BGCB Clubs (in Charlestown, Chelsea, Dorchester, Roxbury and South Boston), and from other youth-serving organizations throughout New England attended the event, which was sponsored in part by Verizon.

“Computer literacy and technology proficiency are essential components of a young person’s future success. CyberSummit offers teens a variety of opportunities to learn these skills from talented, knowledgeable individuals in a fun and safe environment,” said Linda Whitlock, BGCB Nicholas President and CEO. “Through our Computer Clubhouses and other technology-driven programming, BGCB is committed to making technology available to children and teens, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances.”

During CyberSummit, adult mentors and teen coaches, including volunteers from MIT’s Media Lab, Google, and the Museum of Science, facilitated workshops and worked with the teams on projects to push their creativity to new levels. In just two days, each team used this new

expertise to create a final product. On Friday afternoon, from 3:30 - 5 p.m., CyberSummit concluded with CyberFair, a technology exhibition that provides participants with an opportunity to showcase and “market” their “products.”

Narrowing the digital divide through access to computers is just one way Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston aims to assist young people from all backgrounds to develop into effective citizens and leaders. Many CyberSummit participants have learned their tech savvy at Computer Clubhouses, which are located in all five BGCB Clubs and offer resources such as state-of-the-art equipment, professional software and skilled, professional adult staff. The Blue Hill Computer Clubhouse was recently named an Adobe Youth Voices (AYV) Computer Clubhouse by Adobe Systems Inc.; only 47 other sites around the world will participate in this 2008 pilot program.

#### **About Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston**

Since its founding in 1893, BGCB has provided high-impact, affordable programs and services that enable youth to mature into productive, caring and responsible adults. Today, BGCB gives nearly 14,000 children and teens who need us most a safe place to go, ongoing relationships with caring adults, and life enhancing programs and experiences that build strong character and leadership qualities. We help them stay safe when they need it most – after school, on weekends, during the summer – and where they need it most – in communities with prevalent crime, poverty and substance abuse. We provide hope and opportunity for young people, ages 6 to 18, in nine Clubs, through our Youth Service Providers Network and at Camp Harbor View. The agency’s six core programs focus on education; technology; the arts; sports, fitness and recreation; life skills and leadership development. BGCB is an affiliate of Boys & Girls Clubs of America and The United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley. For more information, visit us on the web at [www.bgcb.org](http://www.bgcb.org).

###



An affiliate of

