



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**TEENS FROM ACROSS CITY UNITE AT
CHARLESTOWN BOYS & GIRLS CLUB / ANSIN YOUTH CENTER FOR
UNITY WEEKEND BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT**

**Raises \$100,000 for the Youth Service Providers Network's
Work With At-Risk Youth and Families**

February 9, 2008 (Boston, MA) – Teens put the fun in fundraising at the annual Unity Weekend basketball tournament on Saturday, February 9 at the Charlestown Boys & Girls Club / Ansin Youth Center. Teen members from five Clubs of Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston (BGCB) will play basketball to raise funds for BGCB's Youth Service Providers Network (YSPN).

YSPN is an innovative BGCB program, in partnership with the Boston Police Department, whose clinically trained social workers connect at-risk youth with appropriate prevention and intervention services. 7NBC and CW56 station owner Ed Ansin conceived Unity Weekend in 2001 as part of his long-term commitment to YSPN. Ed and his brother, Ron, continue to be YSPN's most steadfast financial supporters and Unity Weekend remains a way to provide annual operating funds for the program, whose annual operating budget is approximately \$850,000.

The tournament features eight mixed teams composed of teens from BGCB's five Clubs in Charlestown, Chelsea, Dorchester, Roxbury and South Boston. The four girls' and four boys' teams are sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, John Hancock, The Bank of New York Mellon and The Boston Celtics /Boston Celtics Shamrock Foundation. 7NBC and CW56 provide promotional support and news coverage. Each sponsor contributes \$20,000 toward the event.

"This tournament unites youth from very different parts of the city for a day of teamwork, friendship and sportsmanship," said Linda Whitlock, Nicholas President and CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston.

Since its inception in 1996, YSPN has served more than 8,000 youth and families from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds. The program is designed to address the unique

needs of disadvantaged and at-risk urban youth and their families by placing licensed clinical social workers in district police stations throughout the city. With a referral from a police officer, YSPN provides intake/assessment, crisis intervention, advocacy, referral, clinical case management and ongoing individual and family therapy to youth and their families. Additionally, when there is an incidence of community violence, YSPN provides critical incident trauma services to individuals and groups. YSPN has been heralded nationally for its work in violence prevention and crisis response.

About Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston

Since its founding in 1893, BGCB has provided high-impact, affordable programs and services that enable youth circumstances to mature into productive, caring and responsible adults. Today, BGCB gives more than 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.

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