

Investment of More Than \$8 Million Brings State-of-the-Art Boys & Girls Club to Roxbury
Renovated 44,000-Square-Foot Club Features Expanded Teen Center, Performing Arts Center and Gym

September 16, 2006

**Club Rededication and Renaming as
Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston
Yawkey Club
of Roxbury**

(Roxbury, MA) – The Roxbury community celebrated the reopening of the Boys & Girls Club at 115 Warren Street on Saturday, September 16th. The Roxbury Club, entering its 97th year of service to the community, has undergone a complete renovation and expansion, and has reopened as Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston's Yawkey Club of Roxbury. The Club is named in recognition of the generous gift from the Yawkey Foundation, whose mission it is to make grants that provide immediate, significant and positive impact on the quality of life of youth, families and the underserved. The Club celebrated its grand re-opening with a free community event, The Spirit of Roxbury, from noon to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 16th.

The fully accessible, state-of-the-art Club offers 44,000 square feet of program and administrative space, including designated space for a teen center, teen education center, School-Age Child Care center, fitness center, performing arts center, commercial kitchen in anticipation of future meal service, first aid room, pool, Computer Clubhouse, visual arts room, and climbing wall in the gym. The building's façade and landscaping is more inviting, and "green" measures incorporated into the building ensure maximum natural lighting, improved air quality, and efficient heating and hot water.

The Club can now accommodate 30% more members, including 200 teens and 100 youth ages 6 to 12, and will offer rolling admissions throughout the fall so that all returning and new members have a smooth transition into the Club community. "We take very seriously our mission to help boys and girls become successful citizens and leaders. We are excited to return to the Club where we will have the capacity to serve more youth, especially teens, in spaces that will allow our professional staff to run programs with maximum effectiveness. The youth of Roxbury deserve a Club in which they can learn, have fun and feel safe," said Andrea Swain, Executive Director of the Club.

The \$8 million renovation project was funded by 12 private donors and a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The lead donor was the Yawkey Foundation, whose \$3 million gift leveraged an anonymous donor's challenge grant, providing a total of \$4.5 million towards the project costs.

The Yawkey Foundation supports numerous organizations throughout Boston that serve disadvantaged and at-risk youth and their families with programs that focus on preventing violence and teaching tolerance. In Roxbury, the newly renovated Boys & Girls Club is an important resource for families and youth and is among many local community organizations funded by the Yawkey Foundation.

Fred Fairfield, Chair of the Club's Advisory Board, said, "We are deeply grateful for this important investment in the youth of Roxbury. The Club will be a place of pride for members and for the Roxbury community."

The Spirit of Roxbury celebration was co-chaired by Fairfield and Club Advisory Board member Emily Brown, and sponsored by Citizens Bank, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, Boston Community Capital, Tropical Foods, Hurley Wiring & Cable, and Roxbury Technology Corp. The event honored the Yawkey Foundation, Paul and Sandra Edgerley, John and Cynthia Fish, and Suffolk Construction, whose remarkable generosity and leadership were vital to the renovation and expansion of the Club.

Linda Whitlock, Nicholas President and CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston, which manages the Yawkey Club as part of a multi-Club service network that includes Charlestown, Chelsea, Dorchester, Roxbury and South Boston, said, "We are deeply grateful to the Yawkey Foundation, to our anonymous challenge donor, and to our other generous donors, whose gifts combined to make our vision for a new state-of-the-art Club a reality."

Swain added, "Fulfilling our mission during the past year would not have been possible without the support of the Dearborn Middle School, Orchard Gardens Pilot School and Madison Park Community Center, all of whom provided facility space so that our programs could continue uninterrupted during the renovation."

"The Yawkey Foundation is proud to celebrate the opening of such an important community institution. The Trustees of the Yawkey Foundation are impressed by the level of commitment and compassion shown by Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston. Their historic mission of providing a positive and nurturing environment for area children will be right at home in this new Club," added John L. Harrington, President and Trustee of the Yawkey Foundation.

The project architect is The Architectural Team, Inc., who previously designed two award-winning clubhouses for Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston: the Gerald and Darlene Jordan Club in Chelsea, MA, and the Keane Children's Center at the Charlestown Club in Charlestown, MA. Suffolk Construction is the general contractor on the project.

About Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston

Since its founding in 1893, BGCB has provided high-impact, affordable programs and services that enable at-risk youth from disadvantaged circumstances to mature into productive, caring and responsible adults. Today, BGCB serves nearly 13,000 young people, ages 6 to 18, in five Clubs (in Charlestown, Chelsea, Dorchester, Roxbury and South Boston) and through programs with the Boston Public Schools and the Boston Police Department. For an annual fee of just \$25 per member — \$5 for teens — BGCB offers a variety of program activities and support services designed to assist in the educational, emotional, moral and physical development of its members. The agency's 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. For more information, visit us on the web at www.bgcb.org.

About The Yawkey Foundation

The Yawkey Foundation was established more than twenty years ago to further serve the family's many charitable goals. The mission of the Yawkey Foundations is to continue the charitable legacy of Tom and Jean Yawkey by making grants that provide immediate, significant and positive impact on the quality of life of youth, families and the underserved, primarily in the areas which the Yawkeys called home, New England and Georgetown County, South Carolina. For additional information about the Foundations, visit their website at www.yawkeyfoundations.org.

About Suffolk Construction

Suffolk Construction, led by CEO John F. Fish since 1982, is one of the leading, privately held general building construction firms in the country. Suffolk provides preconstruction, construction management, general contracting and design/build services to clients nationwide, with full-service offices in Boston, Massachusetts; Florida; and California.

Suffolk completes projects of the highest quality through dedicated teamwork and a passionate commitment to its corporate strategies: train and develop our people; earn intense customer loyalty; diversify our work. Suffolk's project portfolio consists of quality building and renovation projects in every key sector in the construction industry, including assisted living, commercial, education, entertainment, healthcare, hospitality, public work, residential, retail and special projects.

About The Architectural Team, Inc.

Founded in 1971, The Architectural Team is an award-winning architectural firm specializing in designs for the residential, healthcare, commercial and hospitality/recreational markets. A mid-sized firm of approximately 65 people, The Architectural Team is based in Chelsea, Massachusetts. For more information, please visit www.architecturalteam.com.

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