



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF BOSTON ANNOUNCES “YOUTHCONNECT”  
AS NEW NAME FOR YSPN PROGRAM**

**Andrea Perry Promoted to Executive Director to Lead Program That  
Connects At-Risk Youth With Positive Choices  
in Partnership With the Boston Police Department**

June 22, 2010 (Boston, MA) – Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston (BGCB) announces that Youth Service Providers Network (YSPN) has a new name. Now called YouthConnect, this innovative program in partnership with the Boston Police Department will continue to be an effective advocacy and intervention program that helps at-risk youth make positive life choices. YouthConnect’s clinical social workers address the unique needs of high-risk urban youth who are referred to the program by Boston police officers. The program has served more than 9,800 youth since its inception in 1996.

The name change coincides with the promotion of Andrea Perry, LICSW, to Executive Director of the program. On July 1, Perry takes over for Jeff Butts who, after 14 years in the role, is becoming Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston’s full-time Director of Public Funding.

Perry has more than 15 years of experience working with at-risk youth and urban communities, as well as an extensive knowledge of the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. She has spent 11 years working for the YSPN program (now called YouthConnect), that BGCB launched to extend the spectrum of services the organization offers to youth and families in need.

“Andrea’s compassion for the youth we serve is matched by her deep knowledge of how to help kids in crisis,” said Josh Kraft, Nicholas President and CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston. “She has the respect of the staff, long-standing relationships with the community, and the commitment to ensure that YouthConnect continues to be an essential resource to the Boston Police Department and the city.”

Perry said, “I am excited to work with YouthConnect’s talented and dedicated social workers in this new role, ensuring that the program’s youth and families continue to receive the high quality support and services they need and deserve.”

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The Executive Director is a member of the senior leadership team at Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston, responsible for maintaining the overall quality of all YouthConnect services. Providing leadership to the YouthConnect team, the Executive Director oversees all clinical and programmatic aspects, and has responsibility for an annual budget of approximately \$850,000, including securing both private and public funding through grant proposals, events and stewardship. The Executive Director also manages the partnership with Boston Police Department, convenes meetings of the YouthConnect's Advisory Board, and oversees alignment of professional ethics and values with program policies and protocols.

Before being named Executive Director in 2010, Andrea served for two years as Director of Operations, and before that, as Assistant Clinical Director. In these positions, she shared responsibility for the overall programmatic, administrative and clinical aspects of the program. Previously, Andrea worked as a YSPN district social worker serving Mattapan and Dorchester, and counseled youth victims city-wide who were referred by local hospitals after being injured in community violence. As a victim specialist, Andrea also served as a resource to the Sexual Assault Unit, and supported sexually exploited teens as a liaison for a collaboration through the Suffolk County District Attorney's office.

Earlier, Andrea worked as a VISTA volunteer creating youth mentoring programs in Boston Public Schools. She received her undergraduate degree at Smith College, and her MSW at Boston College Graduate School of Social Work. Andrea also has completed Boston University's Non-Profit Management Certificate Program, and a Critical Incident Stress Management certification program through the Trauma Center.

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