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Bohannon Saves Summer

Donation Provides a Much-Needed Venue for Boys & Girls Club Summer Learning Programs

Menlo Park, CA- More than 100 kids will have the opportunity to learn this summer thanks to the generosity of the Bohannon Development Company. The company's donation of the use of a 6,500 sq. ft. office building will enable the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula to run a number of academically focused programs for youth this summer.

The building is located at 100 Independence in Menlo Park's Belle Haven neighborhood and is "a perfect venue" according to Sean Mendy, the Club's College Bound Program Director.

In the past, the Club has been able to run these programs at local schools. Due to state budget cuts this year, however, finding other facilities became necessary. Summer programs are essential in helping our students retain what they have learned the past year. They also provide a safe and supportive summer experience so finding a location was critical. "We extend our appreciation to everyone at Bohannon for their support of our students." said Ravenswood Schools Superintendent. "Their generosity will provide extended enrichment opportunities to the youth of our community."

According to Peter Fortenbaugh, Executive Director of the Club, with record numbers of youth anticipated at our clubhouses this summer, we knew we had to find some space. We put out a call for help. I am happy to say our friends and neighbors at the Bohannon Development Company responded. They offered the building and to cover the utilities. They have always been there for us and this time is no exception. They have truly saved summer - for the Club and the kids."

Beginning in June, middle school students who normally participate in the Club's Center for a New Generation school-based programs will descend on the Bohannon property to participate in activities focused on reading, math, science, life and leadership skills and more. "Our goal is to partner with schools and families to help these kids succeed academically and in life", says Alara MacGilivray, the Club's Director of School-Based programs. In the evenings and on weekends, high school aged youth from the Club's College Bound program will participate in a range of workshops designed to help them graduate from high school with a plan for their future. The building's private offices will allow the Club's volunteer tutors and mentors opportunities to work with the youth as well.

"The Bohannon Family and the Bohannon Development Company have been neighbors to the Belle Haven community since the 1930's." said Scott Bohannon. "We believe strongly in supporting the students in Belle Haven, which is why we support the Belle Haven Elementary Community School with grant funding and now we're partnering with the Boys & Girls Club to provide space for the summer learning programs."

About the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula

The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula has been providing safety and support for children aged 6-18 for over fifty years. The organization has evolved and is now regarded as one of the most comprehensive youth development organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area. Today, through eight sites – three clubhouses and five school based programs located in across East Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Redwood City, California – more than 1,000 youth daily find engaging programs and caring staff as well as volunteers to help them learn and grow. The Club's programs which focus on Academics, Science and Technology, Social Education and Life Skills, Physical Fitness and Athletics and Visual and Performing Arts as well as Teens, are designed to engage youth and to provide them with the attitudes and life skills they need to succeed in school and beyond. To ensure effectiveness and efficiency, the Club regularly evaluates programs and partners with numerous entities including school districts and colleges. The Club's programs are made possible by gifts and grants from the community. Families contribute what they can. No child is ever turned away. For more information on the Club visit www.bgcp.org or call (650) 646-6128.