



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF GREATER WASHINGTON TO  
MAKE IMPROVEMENTS TO CLUBS IN DC, MD AND VA**

*Effort a Result of Six-Month Study of How Organization Can  
Best Deliver Services to Youth Throughout the Region*

(Silver Spring, MD, April 26, 2007) Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington (BGCGW) announced today that its Board has approved a comprehensive set of recommendations designed to increase its capacity to serve youth, improve the quality of its facilities and maximize the use of the organization's resources. BGCGW serves 30,000 youth annually throughout the District, Maryland, and Virginia with a special focus on youth living in low-income families.

The recommendations are the result of the six-month Program Delivery Study, which reviewed operations at all 22 BGCGW clubs. During the study, BGCGW evaluated all of its clubs based on several criteria including the current and future capacity to provide high-quality programs to youth, the number of youth served in the particular facility, and the quality, safety, and efficiency of the building.

These recommendations will enable many BGCGW children to attend new or improved clubs, and the organization will eventually be able to serve more kids and grow along with the region's communities.

"These recommendations chart an exciting and responsible course for BGCGW so that we can serve more kids with better programs in areas of greatest need, as identified by a multidisciplinary task force of the Board. I am proud of our organization for taking this important step to better serve our region's youth today and in the future," said Terry McCallister, Chairman of the Board.

A complete set of recommendations is attached. BGCGW plans to do the following:

- o Renovate and/or expand some existing clubs;
- o Revitalize some sites to provide brand new clubs;
- o Continue participation in community development processes already underway;
- o Continue effective and efficient operations at clubs where the club location, size, population served, configuration and condition are in line with the needs of the children in the community;
- o Evaluate new locations in places of high need where BGCGW services are needed but no clubs currently exist.

One difficult decision that the organization has reached is that the Eastern Branch, located in the Capitol Hill East neighborhood, will close in August after summer camp. BGCGW will seek out partners through an open process for sale or long-term lease with the option of a new club or other youth-serving facility. BGCGW will provide transportation for all children currently served by the Eastern Branch who choose to attend a nearby BGCGW club. There will be no staff reductions. BGCGW will close this 70-year-old building because the building's layout makes it difficult to effectively supervise children, and its large size and energy inefficiency make it expensive to operate for the relatively few children who use the club daily.

“While it is never easy to close a club, these actions will make it possible for us to serve more youth throughout D.C. as well as in Maryland and Virginia. We want to be there for all the kids who need us, and these actions will help us achieve this goal,” said Will Gunn, President and CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington. “Our youth face seemingly endless challenges every day—gang violence, teen parenthood, school drop-out rates that are too high, drug abuse, and so on. As we will be more effectively using our assets, we will be able to expand our staff and improve the quality of our programs for all of the kids we serve in the greater Washington region,” he said.

### **About Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington**

One of the largest affiliates of Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington (BGCGW) serves 30,000 children in 22 Clubs in Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia. Through programming in five core areas--Education and Career Development; Character and Leadership Development; Health and Life Skills; the Arts; and Sports, Fitness and Recreation--BGCGW creates a positive environment where children are encouraged to develop their ambitions and turn them into reality. BGCGW helps boys and girls of all backgrounds, especially those who need us most, build confidence, develop character, and acquire skills that prepare them for school and for life as productive, civic-minded, and responsible adults.

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## **Program Delivery Study Recommendations**

### ➤ **Revitalize Four Sites**

Mary & Daniel Loughran Clubhouse #10 (Columbia Heights) and Robert V. Murray Clubhouse #11 (Southeast Washington)

These sites should be redeveloped to include a new club along with other uses that also serve the local community well. The organization will seek out partners through an open process (either for sale or long-term lease) with the requirement that a new club be built. The organization expects that new and improved clubs can be put on these sites, at the same time leveraging the value of this real estate to better serve more children.

Eastern Branch (Capitol Hill) and Frank R. Jelleff Branch (Georgetown)

The recommendation is to seek out partners through an open process for sale or long-term lease with the option of a new club or other youth-serving facility integrated into the redeveloped site. While the number of children from low-income households in the Capitol Hill East and Georgetown neighborhoods is small, both the Eastern and Jelleff clubs have long histories of serving youth. BGCGW intends to continue to do so if the associated financial options are feasible.

BGCGW will close the Eastern Branch in August after summer camp while this process is underway for several reasons: 1) At 46,000 sq. ft., it is substantially larger than the needs of the neighborhood indicate, given the relatively low number of children from low income families. 2) There are now fewer children using the club each day, especially since after-school programming has begun at local public schools; 3) The facility is poorly configured to effectively supervise children so even extensive renovations would not be a long-term solution; and 4) due to its size and energy inefficiency, it is very expensive to operate and runs a substantial deficit each year.

BGCGW will issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) in the near future to identify potential partners, and it expects to begin a full Request for Proposal (RFP) process during the summer. Some of the contemplated RFP options include: land leases, sale-lease backs and land swaps. BGCGW will ensure the availability of continuous service to youth during these processes, in many cases by providing transportation to other local clubs. BGCGW will also hold meetings during the spring and summer with local community residents in each of these neighborhoods to gather the community's input and vision for services offered at the sites.

### ➤ **Renovate or Expand Three Clubs**

Alexandria-Olympic Branch (VA), Germantown Branch (MD), and Richard England Clubhouse #14 (DC)

BGCGW plans to invest in renovations of the Alexandria-Olympic Branch (already underway) and the Richard England Clubhouse #14 and in an expansion of the Germantown Branch. There are high numbers of youth in these areas, especially those from low-income families, and we want to provide those youth with clubs of higher quality and increased capacity to serve them better.

➤ **Continue Participation In Community Redevelopment Processes At Two Clubs**  
Silver Spring Branch (MD) and Butler-Wyatt Clubhouse #2 (Sursum Corda, DC)

At both of these clubs, there are community revitalization processes already underway. BCGGW hopes to be a part of efforts by the Montgomery County government with regard to its Silver Spring Club and to continue our service in Sursum Corda as part of the Northwest 1 project.

➤ **Work with Partners to Make Near-term Improvements at Four Clubs**  
Hopkins Branch (DC), Anthony Bowen Elementary School Clubhouse #4 (DC), Orr Elementary School Branch (DC) and Northwestern High School (MD)

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington leases space for these clubs from the D.C. Housing Authority (Hopkins Branch) and from D.C. Public Schools. BCGGW values these partnerships and looks forward to working with our partners to improve each of these facilities as we go forward.

➤ **Continue Effective Service to Youth at Eight Clubs**  
FBR Branch at THEARC (DC), Old Petworth School Clubhouse #6 (DC), Brent Place Branch (formerly known as Essex House Branch) (VA), Carteret Mortgage Branch (VA), General Heiser Branch (VA), Hylton Branch (VA), Fairfax County Culmore Character Club Branch (VA), and Herndon Branch (VA)

Though these clubs vary widely in size, age, and the number of children served, each of these clubs are located where kids need them, they have appropriate configurations, quality and capacity, and they are effectively sized and utilized for their communities. BCGGW will seek to continue effective service for its kids and monitor facilities maintenance programs at these sites.

➤ **Further Evaluate Remaining Sites as Part of Ongoing Facilities Improvement Efforts**  
Fredericksburg Regional Branch (VA) and Camp Ernest Brown (DC-MD)

Given the success of the partnership with the Fredericksburg City Public Schools, the Fredericksburg Regional Branch has started a planning process for a potential new club in Fredericksburg that will be able to serve even more youth in this area. BCGGW will conduct a more detailed evaluation of Camp Ernest Brown, its 168-acre summer camp in Scotland, MD, in the near future. The first phase of the Program Delivery Study did not make specific recommendations about these youth-serving facilities.

➤ **New Areas Where BCGGW Should Establish Clubs in the Future**

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington looks forward to expanding its service to youth throughout the region in the coming years. The study identified several areas for potential growth in District, Maryland, and Virginia based on the needs of local youth, opportunities for partnership with local governments and the community, possibilities for funding, and BCGGW's own ability to deliver high-quality programs to additional youth.