

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 9, 2014

Contact:

Carley Solether

Americorps VISTA

Resource Development

csolether@bgcbellevue.org

Whole Kids Foundation approves The Boys and Girls Clubs of Bellevue for Whole Kids Foundation Garden Grant and Whole Foods Market in Downtown Bellevue raises over \$8,000 for the club during quarterly 5% Day.

On Wednesday April 23, 2014 AT 2:15 PM the Boys and Girls Clubs of Bellevue will celebrate their partnership with Whole Foods at their Spiritwood Manor clubhouse. The Spiritwood Manor staff will be hosting a Planting Party in celebration of the Whole Kids Foundation's Garden Grant Program and Whole Foods Market's 5% day, where 5% of the day's total sales went to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Bellevue last week. The Whole Foods Garden Grant Program was created in partnership with FoodCorps to help grow students' relationship with food through gardening.

The Whole Kids Foundation has extended \$4 million in grant funds to over 2,100 schools and garden related non-profits throughout the country, which will support a broad range of projects including raised bed garden construction, vertical gardens and larger-scale expansions in schools, outdoor classroom projects, composting and rainwater collection.

The kids and staff at Spiritwood Manor are excited to start planting. Garden Coordinator, Carley Solether an Americorps volunteer, plans to arrange a garden bed called the "Pizza Planter" complete with tomato, onion and basil. Master Gardeners from the Bellevue Demonstration Garden will volunteer at the Planting Party as well, teaching the kids about best gardening practices and uses of different plants. The garden will be integrated into daily activities at the Spiritwood Manor clubhouse. Every other week a shining, club kid will be granted "Master Gardener Status" where they are given the responsibility to water and harvest the plants.

"We plan to integrate the garden into our fine arts program and weekly cooking classes, teaching the kids about the importance of nutrition in an unconventional way." Says Site Director Markeese Rieux

In addition to funding, each grant recipient received a package of garden starter items, including seeds from High Mowing Organics and, and a school garden resource guide with a wealth of information on resources and how to build and sustain gardens to ensure long-term success.

"We were overwhelmed by the enthusiasm for the School Garden Grant Program," says Nona Evans, executive director of Whole Kids Foundation. "It is so inspiring to see the diversity and creativity in the types of gardens that will be planted across the country and the interaction between the students and their communities." For more information on how to apply for a school

garden grant and learn about additional Whole Kids Foundation programs, visit:
wholekidsfoundation.org.

ABOUT THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF BELLEVUE

Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue was established in 1952. Currently the organization has 12 sites throughout the City of Bellevue and serves children 2/ ½ - 18 years of age. Club programs include the Project Learn After-school Program, structured athletic leagues, Preschool, summer camps and Teen specific programming.

For more information about the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue, please call 425-454-6162 or visit the Club's website at www.bgcbellevue.org