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FASHION WEEK KICKS OFF WITH FOCUS ON ACCESSORIES Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue to Host Baubles, Bags and Boots!

BELLEVUE, Wash. (Sept. 1, 2009) – Focusing on the jewelry, handbags, shoes, boots, scarves, hats and all of the other accessories that complete a wardrobe, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue will host, along with Fashion Week '09 Honorary Co-Chairs Tere' Foster and Moya Skillman, *Baubles, Bags and Boots!* This invitation-only luncheon is set for Thursday, Sept. 24, 2009 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the new STIR Martini + Raw Bar at Bellevue Place.

This unique approach to a fashion event is the first of a series of haute fashion events at The Bellevue Collection for Fashion Week '09, which runs September 29 – October 4, 2009. During that week, other fashion events are taking place at various stores within The Collection with the major runway events at the Hyatt Regency Bellevue in their newly completed Evergreen Ballroom. *Vogue* magazine has partnered with The Bellevue Collection to present Fashion Week '09 with ticket sales benefitting Boys and Girls Clubs of Bellevue.

“Our programs focus on helping youth and teens learn valuable life, health, character, and leadership skills,” says Kathy Haggart, President/CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue. She cites SMART Girls and GOOD Guys, two of their most popular programs, modeled after proven curriculum developed by Boys & Girls Clubs of America. These programs focus on building self-esteem and responsibility among kids and teens ages five to sixteen. “We depend on the generosity of companies like The Bellevue Collection and the people who will attend and donate to *Bauble, Bags and Boots* to keep these programs thriving. Our Eastside kids are our future. We need to give them every tool they can to become strong, contributing adults.”

“We believe our future is in the hearts and minds of our youth,” says Jennifer Leavitt, vice president of marketing, The Bellevue Collection. “We are proud to have the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue as our beneficiary not only for this event but for the Front Row Fashion event and VIP Shopping Night. Their work in our community is invaluable and needs to continue. If we can help fund these programs while bringing

exciting events to our community, then this year's Fashion Week '09 will be a true success."

There is no charge to attend *Baubles, Bags and Boots!* The Boys & Girls Clubs will ask for a suggested \$150 donation. Corporate sponsorships are available and all proceeds will benefit scholarships and programs for girls. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit bellevuecollection.com/fashionweek or email at jhayes@bgcbellevue.org.

About Boys & Girls Clubs of America

For more than 100 years, Boys & Girls Clubs of America has been helping kids "Be Great", providing hope and opportunity for those who need it most. Today, some 4,300 Clubs serve some 4.8 million young people through Club membership and community outreach. Known as The Positive Place for Kids, Boys & Girls Clubs can be found all across the country and on U.S. military bases throughout the world, providing young people and teens with guidance-oriented character development programs conducted by trained, professional staff. In communities large and small, Clubs positively impact lives and help young people reach their full potential as productive, caring citizens. Key programs emphasize leadership development; education and career exploration; community service; technology training; financial literacy; health and life skills; the arts; sports, fitness and recreation; and family outreach. In a recent Harris Survey of Club alumni, 57 percent said the Club saved their lives. National headquarters are located in Atlanta.

About The Bellevue Collection

Located in the heart of Bellevue, Washington, The Bellevue Collection includes Bellevue Square, Bellevue Place and Lincoln Square. With a distinctive collection of 250 of the finest shops, 23 sit-down restaurants, a 16-screen premier cinema, 700 luxury hotel rooms and 10,000 free retail parking spaces, all in one location. The Bellevue Collection is an experience unlike any other in the region. It is located on Bellevue Way between NE 4th and NE 10th Street in downtown Bellevue, just across Lake Washington from Seattle.

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