****

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 26, 2023

Contact: Shelly Williams

Phone: 541-515-3600

Email: swilliams@bgcev.org

**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF EMERALD VALLEY CELEBRATES ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

**OF NEW LOCATION WITH RIBBON CUTTING**

EUGENE, Ore. – Boys & Girls Clubs of Emerald Valley, a leading nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering and supporting youth, is celebrating the one-year anniversary of its newly established satellite location in Bethel with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. This momentous occasion not only marks an important milestone for the organization but also addresses the pressing need for accessible school-age childcare and youth development programs.

Housed in Prairie Mountain School, the Bethel Club is a vital resource for the community's children since its inception one year ago. With a daily average of 70 kids benefiting from its services, the Club has swiftly emerged as a safe haven where children can learn, grow, and thrive.

The grand ribbon-cutting ceremony, hosted by the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce, is slated for **Tuesday, May 30, from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.** at Prairie Mountain School and will celebrate the first anniversary and shine a spotlight on the collaborative efforts of community members, local businesses, and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Emerald Valley team.

"Today, we proudly celebrate the one-year anniversary of our Clubhouse in Bethel," stated Matt Sorensen, Executive Director of Boys & Girls Clubs of Emerald Valley. "This Clubhouse is not just a building; it is a beacon of hope and opportunity for our community. By addressing the pressing need for school-age childcare and youth development programs, we are ensuring that our children have access to a nurturing environment where they can learn, play, and build essential life skills. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Bethel School District, our dedicated staff, and the generous support of our community, without which this milestone would not have been possible."

The Club remains steadfast in its commitment to providing affordable access to high-quality programs and services for all children. In the Bethel area, the lack of school-age childcare and youth development programs has challenged families , hindering the academic and personal growth of countless young individuals. The new Clubhouse stands as a powerful solution.

"We firmly believe that every child deserves an equal opportunity to succeed, regardless of their background or financial circumstances," emphasized Mr. Sorensen. "In recognition of this, we have set an affordable annual membership fee of just $40 for families, ensuring that financial constraints do not hinder any child's ability to benefit from the life-changing opportunities available at our Clubhouse."

Boys & Girls Clubs of Emerald Valley extends a warm invitation to members of the media, community leaders, and all interested individuals to join the ribbon-cutting ceremony . The event promises to be a moment of joy and showcases the profound impact the organization has made in the lives of children.

**About Boys & Girls Clubs of Emerald Valley**

Boys & Girls Clubs of Emerald Valley (BGCEV) has been serving our community since 1999 with the mission “to inspire and empower all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.” Boys & Girls Clubs of Emerald Valley is open to all youth ages 6-18, first through twelfth grade. Club membership will cost only $40 per child.

For more information on the Boys and Girls Clubs of Emerald Valley, check out the website – bgcev.org