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The Comcast Foundation Supports Boys & Girls Clubs of NEPA

SCRANTON – The Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeastern Pennsylvania recently conducted a check presentation with The Comcast Foundation to present the Club with a \$10,000 donation to support its After School POWER Hour Program and Computer Education Program.

With the generous donation from The Comcast Foundation, the Boys & Girls Clubs of NEPA was able to provide consistent daily homework help from a Scranton School District teacher. The donation also gave members an opportunity to do enrichment activities, and utilize the computer lab.

According to Tricia DiBiasi Thomas, Boys & Girls Clubs of NEPA executive director, “Very simply put, POWER Hour Program is designed to provide comprehensive homework help and tutoring to our Club members in hopes of raising their academic proficiency. We want to educate and safeguard these children, giving them a fighting chance to succeed in life. We are very thankful for our year-round partnership with The Comcast Foundation.”

“Comcast is dedicated to investing in and enriching the communities where we live and work,” said Liz Sterner, Sr. Director of Government & Community Affairs for Comcast. “We’re thrilled to support an organization that is so committed to inspiring and enabling all young people to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens.”

Each year the Boys & Girls Clubs of NEPA provides over 1,000 children with after school homework help through its POWER Hour Program and Computer Education Program. They are conducted Monday through Friday for two hours at our full service Club, and for one hour at the Luzerne County extension sites immediately after school.

This grant from The Comcast Foundation is in recognition of Comcast's commitment to the communities where its customers and employees live and work. Since its founding in 1999, The Comcast Foundation has distributed more than \$50 million in support of programs implemented locally in Comcast communities.

Cut Line:

At the check presentation are (l-r) Johnye Hoyes, Comcast marketing operations manager; Elizabeth Turner, Comcast senior director, government & community affairs; Tricia DiBiasi Thomas, Boys & Girls Clubs of NEPA executive director; Julianne Kalasinski, Boys & Girls Clubs of NEPA development director; and John Kramer, Boys & Girls Clubs of NEPA vice president.

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Background:

The Boys & Girls Clubs was founded in 1899 and was originally called the Boy's Industrial Association (BIA) and was located in the basement of St. Luke's Episcopal Church. From its inception, the organization was non-sectarian and inter-racial in membership and administration. In 1906, BIA joined a growing federation of youth organizations, which later became the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. In 1926, the organization moved into larger facilities at the corner of Mulberry Street and Adams Avenue and was dedicated with a new corporate title, "Boys' Club of Scranton". In response to social developments and recognizing a strong local need for services for girls, the club opened its doors to girls in 1981. In October of 1985, The Club changed its name to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Scranton. In 2000, the organization once again expanded services, locating extension sites throughout Luzerne County and was renamed to The Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Throughout the time the mission has remained the same: to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. Today, some 1,000 boys and girls, ages six to eighteen years old, take advantage of the programs, activities, and services provided by our agency at our full-service Central unit in Scranton and our extension sites throughout Luzerne County and in lower Lackawanna County.