



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts:

Jack Ribas
203-924-7462

Shaye Roscoe
203-924-9329

Boys & Girls Club Spotlights Importance of Afterschool Programs with Lights On Afterschool

Shelton, CT, October 12, 2011 – The Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley is holding its annual Lights On Afterschool program on October 20, 2011. The purpose of the event is to celebrate the achievements of our afterschool students and draw attention to the need for more after school programs to serve the more than 170,000 children in Connecticut who are unsupervised and at risk each weekday afternoon. Thousands of such events will be taking place across the nation in October, emphasizing the importance of keeping the lights on and the doors open for afterschool programs.

Our Clubhouse will be hosting a Program Fair as part of the Lights On Afterschool program. From 5:30-6:30, we will have displays for each of the programs our Club offers, including:

- **Computer Room.** Open daily with access to the Internet available and monitored.
- **Games Room.** Pool, ping pong, foosball, air hockey, bumper pool, board games.
- **Gym.** Includes Athlete of the Year, sports skills, and group games.
- **Homework Club.** Power Hour: Making Minutes Count. A comprehensive homework help program designed to raise the academic proficiency of Club members ages 6-15 with homework help.
- **Sports Leagues.** Basketball, indoor soccer, cheerleading, football
- **Chess.** Chess is one of the world's most popular games, played by millions of people worldwide. Chess has been proven to enhance creativity, concentration, critical thinking skills, memory, academic achievement, problem solving, intellectual maturity, self-esteem, and standardized test scores. Our Chess Club meets weekly and is led by our long-time instructor, Mario Russo. Open to players of all skills levels.
- **Cooking.** A nutrition program to teach children healthy eating habits and good nutrition. Participants plan the menus, learn to shop for the ingredients, and prepare everything themselves. The program culminates in a dinner for the participants' families, prepared by the children themselves.
- **Crocheting.** Members learn the basics of crocheting and make projects throughout the school year. In the past, participants crocheted baby blankets for



- the domestic violence shelter and hats and scarves for our soldiers serving overseas.
- **Drama.** A fun, interactive program where children can learn acting, singing, dancing, and musical theatre. The Club produces a show each school year.
 - **Immersion Science.** A fun and powerful science education program for kids in grades 5-8, founded by famed oceanographer and explorer Dr. Robert Ballard. What makes the program so successful is its joint emphasis on scientific knowledge coupled with the fun and excitement of exploration.
 - **Keystone Club.** Small group leadership development club for young people ages 14 to 18. Keystoners elect officials, choose their own activities, and plan and implement community service projects. Our Club holds a national charter, which entitles the members to participate in regional and national Keystone conferences.
 - **Music.** Learn guitar, keyboard, or drums over an eight-week course. Beginner and intermediate classes available.
 - **Smart Moves.** Skill Mastery and Resistance Training, a prevention/education program addressing problems such as drug and alcohol use. The program uses a team approach involving Club staff, peer leaders, parents, and community representatives. More than simply emphasizing a “say No” message, the program teaches young people how to say no by involving them in role playing, practicing resistance and refusal skills, developing assertiveness, strengthening decision-making skills, analyzing media and peer influences.
 - **Technology.** Internet-based tech lab.
 - **TGIF.** Middle school students, every Friday, 6-9 pm through March
 - **Torch Club.** A group club leadership development program targeted to youth ages 11-13. Members elect officers and implement their own activities and community service projects. Our Torch Club holds an official charter from Boys & Girls Clubs of America, and in 2010 was named the No. 1 Torch Club in the entire United States.

Parents, our Board of Directors, local officials, and the media are invited to join us for the event.

“We are all very proud of our afterschool students,” says Unit Director Shaye Roscoe. “There’s no reason that learning should stop at 3 pm, particularly if the alternative is unsupervised time in front of a television set, or any of the dangerous or unhealthy behaviors that can ensnare our youth in the afternoons.”

Jack Ribas, Executive Director, says, “Like so many afterschool programs around the nation, ours is supported by funding from the federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative. Since its creation, it has provided funding to allow millions of children to attend afterschool. However, it is woefully underfunded today and there is danger that some of its limited funds will be diverted to other uses. All who care about afterschool need to show their support full funding for afterschool through the 21st Century initiative.”



For more information about our Boys & Girls Club, visit us at www.BGC-LNV.com.

###