



Boys & Girls Clubs of Canada
Clubs Garçons & Filles du Canada

MEDIA RELEASE

Sears donates \$300,000 to Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada After-School Programs

30 clubs across Canada will receive \$10,000 for the expansion and enhancement of after-school programs.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MARKHAM, ON (October 31, 2006) – Every year, children and youth who “hang out” with nothing to do after school are put at risk of being drawn into risky behaviours or being victimized by bullies or others who might take advantage of them. This year, over ten thousand young people in communities across Canada will have the chance to attend a safe, welcoming Boys and Girls Club and participate in a variety of enriching after-school activities including, homework clubs, cooking instruction, dance classes and other life skills development programs, thanks to a generous \$300,000 donation from Sears Canada’s Sears Young Futures.

The \$10,000 After-School Enhancement Grants will be awarded to thirty clubs belonging to Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada, a leading provider of safe and enriching after-school programs for children and youth. The clubs will use the grants to enhance existing after-school activities, create new programs and expand their after-school programming to better meet the needs of local children and their families.

“Sears support has helped our clubs tremendously over the past six years, enabling thousands of children to benefit from structured after-school programs that allow them to develop their abilities, both academically and socially, and channel their energies into positive, constructive pursuits,” said Pam Jolliffe, President and CEO, Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada.

A parent, whose children attend the Charlotte County Boys and Girls Club in New Brunswick, highlights how the after-school programs have helped her family, “I am a working mother of two school-age children who have been attending the after-school program for the past three years. After being provided with a nutritious snack, my children can choose from a number of activities, such as homework club, crafts, games, and computers.... This is all provided in a safe, supervised environment that encourages social interaction and developmental growth. I believe that my children have benefited greatly from their experiences at the club.”

Since 2001, 173 After-School Enhancement Grants have been awarded to Boys and Girls Clubs in every province, through Sears Young Futures, to help clubs make their after-school programs more accessible to children and families in need. These grants were created in response to a study conducted by Sears and Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada in 2001, which indicated that the greatest concern of parents of children aged 6 -14 is the physical and emotional safety of their children during the after-school time period.

“Sears Canada is proud to continue its support of Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada,” said Dene Rogers, Acting President, Sears Canada. “It is our hope that through the after-school programs, children and youth will develop the skills and qualities necessary to become well-rounded individuals and productive citizens of society.”

Thirty Boys and Girls Clubs were awarded grants for this school year in the following communities:

Alberta – Wetaskiwin, Fort McMurray, Edmonton, Lethbridge, Crowsnest Pass

British Columbia – Comox Valley, Kamloops, Central Vancouver Island, Delta/Richmond

Manitoba – Winnipeg

New Brunswick – Petitcodiac, Moncton

Newfoundland – Botwood, Wabana, St. Anthony

More...

Nova Scotia – Sackville, Cole Harbour, Truro, Preston and Area

Ontario – Niagara, St. Alban's, Eastview (Oshawa), Simcoe County, Windsor/Essex, Dovercourt, West Scarborough

Prince Edward Island – Charlottetown

Quebec – Dawson, Lachine

Saskatchewan – Regina

About Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada

Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada is a leading provider of programs that support the healthy physical, educational and social development of more than 163,000 children, youth and their families each year. In 700 community locations across Canada, clubs offer after-school programs in physical recreation, technology, the arts, personal growth and more. Many clubs also provide meals, emergency shelter, family support programs and other supports to children and youth at risk. Boys and Girls Clubs have been helping young Canadians to discover, develop and achieve their potential, for over 100 years. To learn more, visit: www.bgccan.com.

About Sears Canada

Sears Young Futures, the Sears Canada community investment program, supports organizations that provide enriching after-school programs for children and youth across Canada.

Sears Canada has been Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada's longest standing and most significant corporate partner, supporting Canadian children and youth for over 40 years. *Sears Young Futures* provides funding support to Boys and Girls Clubs across Canada to assist them in offering quality, supervised after-school programs for children and youth across the country.

Sears Canada, the retailer with the most extensive multi-channel network in the country, began serving customers in 1953. The Company has 41,000 associates and, in an independent consumer survey, ranks high in customer service, trust, respect, and quality products and services. There is a Sears location within a 10-minute drive of 93% of Canadians, and Sears is dedicated to providing them with quality merchandise and exceptional service coast to coast through its 122 full-line department stores, 217 off-mall stores, 62 home improvement showrooms, over 2,100 catalogue merchandise pick-up locations, 113 Sears Travel offices and a nationwide home maintenance, repair, and installation network. The Company also publishes Canada's most extensive general merchandise catalogue and offers shopping online at www.sears.ca.

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