



BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS OF CANADA AND FUTURE SHOP ENHANCE SUPPORT FOR CANADIAN YOUTH WITH NEW “FUTURE GRANTS” AND 55 MORE “FUTURE LEADERS” SCHOLARSHIPS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (February 25, 2004) – Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada (BGCC) and Future Shop are set to broaden the opportunities available to Canadian children and youth in 2004, through an expanded partnership, featuring the launch of “Future Grants”, a nationwide initiative to strengthen Boys and Girls Clubs across Canada. Future Shop will also renew its support, for a fourth consecutive year, of “Future Leaders – Scholarships for Today’s Youth”, an annual program that provides 55 Boys and Girls Club members with the chance to pursue a higher education.

Future Shop’s new “Future Grants” program will offer local Boys and Girls Clubs the opportunity to apply for grants, valued at up to \$1,000 each, which will enable them to receive Future Shop products for use in club programs or for specific fundraising activities. Recipients will be announced on May 1, 2004 at Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada’s National Conference in Kelowna, BC.

Through the “Future Leaders” national scholarship program, 55 more Boys and Girls Club members from across Canada will be awarded scholarships, valued at \$3,000 each, to attend the post-secondary institution of the youth’s choice for the September 2004 term. This brings the total number of youth who are benefiting from a “Future Leaders” scholarship to over 200 in the past four years.

As in past years, recipients will be chosen for demonstrating an inspiring commitment to their education, exceptional dedication to their local Boys and Girls Club and financial need. This year’s recipients will be announced in a news release in June and presentations will be held in select Future Shop stores and Boys and Girls Clubs throughout Canada in August.

“We are excited to be growing our partnership with Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada, through the new “Future Grants” program and our continued support for Future Leaders,” said Kevin Layden, President and COO of Future Shop. “Future Shop believes that within every child lies a future leader. We are committed to providing

Canadian youth with access to education and resources that will enable them to become this country's leaders of tomorrow."

After fleeing war torn Bosnia with his family at age 12, Mirzet Alekic became a member of the Winnipeg Boys and Girls Club and began learning English, participating in club programs and making friends. Nine years later, Alekic is completing his business degree at the University of Manitoba and works part-time as a youth leader at the club. He had this to say about receiving a 2001 Future Leaders scholarship, "The Future Leaders scholarship helped me pay for school and realize my dream of a university education. Without this support, I would not have been able to study on a full-time basis.... The scholarships are a great source of support and motivation and we are grateful for the opportunities Future Shop has provided."

Future Shop's cumulative contribution of \$660,000 to the "Future Leaders" program makes the company the largest private sector sponsor of Boys and Girls Club scholarships in Canada. When other initiatives such as this year's "Future Grants" program are considered, the overall investment from Future Shop in Boys and Girls Clubs exceeds \$1-million dollars.

"Future Shop's expanded support of Boys and Girls Clubs through "Future Grants", really gives a boost to our club members, by providing clubs with necessary resources and offering better programs for kids," explained Pam Jolliffe, National Executive Director, Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada. "We are also thrilled that Future Shop has renewed its commitment to the "Future Leaders" program, as these scholarships make the world of difference to our youth, for whom the steadily rising cost of post-secondary tuition otherwise poses a significant barrier to higher education."

About Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada

Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada is one of the country's leading national youth organizations. Established over a century ago, the organization's national network of community-based clubs help young people reach their full potential, by providing them with quality recreational, educational and social programs that foster self-esteem, build skills and develop character. Clubs currently offer services to 150,000 children and youth nationwide in 429 communities. Please visit www.bgccan.com for more details.

About Future Shop

With more than 100 stores across the country and the nation's premier web store, at www.FUTURESHOP.ca, Future Shop is Canada's largest, fastest-growing national retailer and e-tailer of consumer electronics.

Future Shop and its 8,500 associates are committed to helping Canadians get MORE out of the technology they buy and offers the latest digital products along with a wide selection of brand-named televisions, computers, audio, entertainment software and hardware and appliances. For more information about Future Shop stores please visit www.futureshop.ca.