



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

MEDIA RELEASE

The Home Depot Canada Foundation and Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada Work to Build Greener, Healthier Communities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MARKHAM, ON (June 17, 2010) Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada and The Home Depot Canada Foundation are partnering on a new initiative to create healthy, vibrant and environmentally responsible spaces for children, youth and families. Through the new **Growing Greener Communities** program, \$10,000 grants from The Home Depot Canada Foundation will be provided to Boys and Girls Clubs in five Canadian cities this year to launch programs that improve sustainability and raise awareness of important environmental issues.

Thanks to these grants, the recipient Clubs will be able to launch a wide range of environmental programs and initiatives, including greenhouses, composting programs, tree planting, vegetable gardens, wetland restoration, recycling programs and a wide range of community awareness campaigns.

"Creating safe, healthy spaces for children and youth is a core part of what Boys and Girls Clubs across Canada offer children and youth," said Pam Jolliffe, President and CEO, Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada. "Growing Greener Communities will provide our young people with the opportunity to develop healthy living skills, learn about the important issues shaping our world and how to live in environmentally responsible ways."

"The Home Depot Canada Foundation is dedicated to creating sustainable communities and we are proud to be partnering with Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada to help them create healthy, vibrant spaces for children and their families," said Gino DiGioacchino, Chair, The Home Depot Canada Foundation and Vice-President of Merchandising, The Home Depot Canada. "The Growing Greener Communities program will create green community spaces that will improve the quality of life for everyone involved and teach a valuable lesson on the importance of innovative environmental thinking for the future."

The five Clubs receiving a \$10,000 Growing Greener Communities grant are: **Boys and Girls Club of Kamloops, Boys and Girls Club Services of Greater Victoria, Boys and Girls Club of Saint John, Boys and Girls Club of Cole Harbour and Boys and Girls Club of Kingston and Area.**

"We are very excited to join with The Home Depot Canada Foundation to create a space where children and families can spend time in the outdoors learning about nature and growing food," said Traci Anderson, Director of Children's Recreation Programs for Boys and Girls Clubs of Kamloops, . "We can use these opportunities to build relationships, and create life-long learning about environmental responsibility and food security."

In addition to the Growing Greener Communities initiative, The Home Depot Canada Foundation has also created the *Buy a Hammer, Build a Community* program, which will support select Boys and Girls Clubs across Canada create vibrant and sustainable communities. Until July 4, visit any participating Home Depot store and purchase a Paper Hammer at the checkout for \$2. All proceeds go to selected charities including Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada.

About Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada

Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada is a leading charitable organization providing after school and out-of-school programs that support the healthy physical, educational and social development of 200,000 children, youth and their families each year. In 700 community locations across Canada, Clubs offer access to opportunities, after-school and at other times when children are not in school, to develop healthy behaviours, academic success and technology learning, positive relationships and life and leadership skills. Many Clubs also provide nutritious snacks and meals, emergency shelter, family support programs and other support to children, youth and families 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.

The Home Depot Canada Foundation

The Home Depot Canada has proudly supported local Boys and Girls Clubs across Canada for over 10 years. In 2009, The Home Depot Canada Foundation and Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada formed a national partnership and in 2010 launched the Growing Greener Communities grant program. Through this program, The Home Depot Canada Foundation provides funding and volunteer support to local Boys and Girls Clubs' projects that have a positive environmental impact on their facility and/or raise awareness around environmental concerns in their communities.

As the charitable arm of The Home Depot Canada, The Home Depot Canada Foundation is committed to building affordable, sustainable housing and vibrant, environmentally responsible communities for Canadians. Bringing together volunteerism, know-how, product donations and monetary grants, the Foundation supports affordable, sustainable housing projects and local neighbourhood improvement projects that incorporate environmentally-responsible practices. For more information, please visit homedepot.ca/foundation.

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