

**Contact: David L. Solo, President and CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Marin and Southern Sonoma Counties**  
**(707-769-5322 x 11) FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF MARIN AND SOUTHERN SONOMA COUNTIES RECEIVES GIFT OF \$5,000 FROM ROTARY CLUB OF SAUSALITO!**

Boys & Girls Clubs of Marin and Southern Sonoma Counties has received a gift of \$5,000 from the Rotary Club of Sausalito to serve Marin City and Sausalito children at the STAR (Smart Teamwork Achieves Results) Clubhouse at the joint Bayside Elementary and Willow Creek Academy campus located in Sausalito!

Rotary Club of Sausalito's gift was specifically used to register three new youth for the STAR after school program, including two children from Marin City and one from Sausalito! The organization served 136 youth grades K-8 this past year in partnership with Sausalito Marin City School District at the STAR Clubhouse, many of who are at-risk. 78% of all Sausalito Marin City youth are eligible for free and reduced lunches, including 92% of Bayside Elementary youth and 58% of Willow Creek Academy children. The Club's membership fee is only \$10 per year, thanks to the support of the local communities we serve, including the Sausalito Marin City School District and the Rotary Club of Sausalito.

Boys & Girls Clubs are open during the time that school is not in session. This provides invaluable support for dual working or single parent families. Statistics show that the highest concentration of crimes reported between 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm involve kids. At that time of day, children are most likely to be involved in crime or be a victim of a crime. The Club provides a safe environment to shield our kids from that danger. While today's youth face many challenges, Boys & Girls Clubs continue their long tradition of offering proven solutions that *work*. Clubs have provided youth with daily, guidance-oriented character development programs.

Monday through Friday from at least 2:30 – 6 PM after school, the Club is open to its members. There are five core areas that the Club staff utilizes in developing programs, including the Arts, Sports, Fitness and Recreation, Health and Life Skills, Character and Leadership Development and Education and Career Development.

According to David Solo, President and CEO, "We are grateful for the generous gift from the Rotary Club of Sausalito! This gift will enable three children to participate in the STAR Clubhouse, to develop a moral compass, participate in civic engagement opportunities, and receive support for academic and career success and to participate in healthy lifestyles".

According to Patrick Lee, Rotary Club of Sausalito President, "We are pleased to fund the Boys & Girls Clubs of Marin and Southern Sonoma Counties and to provide opportunities for Sausalito and Marin City children!"

Rotary is an organization of business and professional leaders united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. In more than 160 countries worldwide, approximately 1.2 million Rotarians belong to more than 30,000 Rotary clubs.

The main objective of Rotary is service — in the community, in the workplace, and throughout the world. Rotarians develop community service projects that address many of today's most critical issues, such as children at risk, poverty and hunger, the environment, illiteracy, and violence. They also support programs for youth, educational opportunities and international exchanges for students, teachers, and other professionals, and vocational and career development. The Rotary motto is *Service Above Self*.

The mission of Boys & Girls Clubs of Marin and Southern Sonoma Counties is to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens. Professional staff and volunteers use daily and varied programs in neighborhood centers to help over 4,700 youth develop a positive self-image and self-reliance to aid them in becoming responsible and productive citizens.

For more information contact David Solo at (707) 769-5322 x 11.

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