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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Affordable Homework Assistance Leads Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Phoenix Members to Success

Power Hour program helps Valley kids succeed in school

(Phoenix, AZ January 20, 2014) — It's no secret that Arizona school children are struggling to keep up with their peers on a national level: a recent Annie E. Casey Foundation study shows that only 26% of Arizona 4th graders are proficient in reading, and according to the National Center of Education Statistics, Arizona's dropout rate is the highest in the nation — a startling 7.8%. With the help of Ross Stores, Inc., the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Phoenix (BGCMP) is making sure every child has the resources they need for academic success.

Power Hour is a daily homework assistance program that gives Club members the skills and confidence necessary to succeed in school. Each day at 12 Valley locations, members complete homework assignments with assistance from Club staff and volunteers. Thousands of members benefit from the program annually.

Members and staff alike recognize the benefits of Power Hour.

"I like doing my homework at the Club because it helps me learn a lot of things. [Staff member] Jimmy makes sure we get our homework done no matter what," said Adrian, a 7-year-old member at the Swift Kids Branch.

Amy Cummings, impact specialist at the Harry & Sandy Rosenzweig Branch, has seen the effects of Power Hour first hand. "Rosenzweig members really appreciate Power Hour. They can get the help they need that maybe they aren't getting at home or even at school. If a member misses Power Hour, they will usually ask if they can do their homework during another activity to make sure they are not falling behind."

"Parents usually think of the Club as a drop-in gym, but when they hear homework comes first, they're even more appreciative of what we do for their children," said Russ Kazmierczak, Jr., Program Manager at Swift Kids Branch.

Power Hour and the staff at BGCMP Clubs are clearly making a difference. Ninety percent of BGCMP Club members graduate on time, compared to only sixty-seven percent of non-members.

Club membership is \$30 for the school year. Thanks to the generosity of Ross Stores, Inc., Power Hour is available at to all Club members at no additional cost. Learn more at www.bgcmp.org.

About the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metropolitan Phoenix

Since 1946, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Phoenix has empowered all youth—especially those who need us most - to reach their full potential as caring, productive, responsible citizens. Each year, 23,000 youth benefit from our life-changing programs and services at 12 Clubhouses, outreach programs in local schools, juvenile detention centers and Bob & Renee Parsons Dental Clinic. Visit www.bgcmp.org for more information.

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scrap pile:

If a member shows up without homework, he or she participates in high yield educational activities like Scrabble, flash cards or reading.

“Through the Power Hour program, youth can develop the study skills and homework habits they need to excel academically and graduate from high school,” said Jane Marvin, senior vice president, Human Resources of Ross Stores.