



Contact: David Romako
602.954.8182
dromako@bgcmp.org

MEDIA ALERT

BALSZ SCHOOL DISTRICT BREAKS GROUND ON NEW BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

New Clubhouse brings after-school opportunities, community center, jobs to innovative district

(Phoenix, AZ March 14, 2014) – The children of the Balsz neighborhood face a lifetime of challenges. Like most of the young people the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Phoenix help across the Valley, nearly all of the 2,800 children in the Balsz neighborhood are low-income, with half coming from broken homes. Many are refugees from other countries and nearly 1 in 10 are homeless.

Thousands of children and teens in the Balsz School District will soon have a fun, safe place to learn and play after school and during the summer, thanks to a partnership between the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Phoenix, Balsz School District, and the Balsz Promise Neighborhood.

WHAT: Ground-breaking ceremony for the Balsz Boys & Girls Club and Community Center, with speech by Mayor Greg Stanton.

WHY:

- **Urgency:** Nearly all of the 2,800 children in the neighborhood are low income. 1 in 10 kids are homeless. They have few other opportunities after school or during the summer. Crime is sky high.
- **Innovation:** The District has received national attention for adding four extra weeks to their school year. This is the next step in keeping kids safe and productive from cradle to college to career.
- **Relevance:** Families will soon have the best after-school program in the country, community groups will have a cutting-edge meeting space, jobs for young people and professionals will be created

WHEN: Thursday, April 3 at 12:30pm-1:40pm

WHERE: Balsz Elementary School
4309 E Belleview St
Phoenix, AZ 85008

VISUALS: Youth performance – 1:00pm
Youth performance – 1:13pm
Councilwoman Kate Gallego speech – 1:20pm
Shovel ceremony – 1:26pm

INTERVIEWS: From 12:30-1:00pm or after 1:30pm

Dr. Jeffrey Smith, Balsz School District Superintendent
Amy Gibbons, Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Phoenix President and Executive
Director
Gail Q. Knight, Balsz Governing Board President
Jeff Levinson, Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Phoenix board president

About Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro 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, and Dental Clinic. Visit www.bgcmp.org for more information.



BALSZ BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB | CONFERENCE CENTER
at Balsz Elementary School

November 4, 2013

RENDERED BUILDING PERSPECTIVE
SCALE: NOT TO SCALE



###