



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Boys & Girls Club Asks for Community Support for Children During Back-to-School

Eureka, CA - ChildSpree is a back-to-school shopping program designed to serve the most financially vulnerable youth. The Boys & Girls Club of the Redwoods and Mervyn's started this back-to-school shopping program 15 years ago and thanks in large part to the support of the North Coast Grantmaking Partnership, this program grew tremendously to serve youth county-wide. In 2015, 422 youth were served!

Due to a strategic visioning change by the North Coast Grantmaking Partnership to focus on trauma informed care, ChildSpree has lost the majority of its funding. The Eureka Elks Lodge stepped up in a major way, providing \$2,000 through an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant. Esmeralda's held a two-week taco sale, raising \$581 in proceeds for ChildSpree. Eureka Broadcasting Inc. owner, Angie Papstein, volunteered for ChildSpree in 2015 and said that she thought more youth could be served if the community was invited to give. The current need was explained to Angie and she immediately kicked in to high gear, not only donating \$300 from the station, but also by producing a 30 second radio ad to air for two weeks and donating a three minute Community Comment. "I love what the Boys & Girls Club of the Redwoods provides for youth. After school and during the summer months, youth are given the opportunity to socialize with one another, learn life skills, engage with positive adult mentors and get help with their studies. I volunteered for ChildSpree last summer for the first time and found this experience so rewarding. Donating money and airtime are just a couple of ways that we can support ChildSpree and the Boys & Girls Club of the Redwoods and we hope that our community will step up as they always do to support such a great cause," said Eureka Broadcasting Co-Owner, Angie Papstein.

"I appreciate the direction that the North Coast Grantmaking Partnership is moving and can only imagine the number of requests that they receive. Receiving the news that you are not receiving anticipated funding is never welcome, however does force one to be creative and that is what we are doing. I have had the personal joy of overseeing ChildSpree for the last 10 years and can attest to the positive impact it has on youth. My hope is that the community really supports it, so that moving forward, we can serve non-Boys & Girls Club members again," said Executive Director, Liz Smith.

If you are interested in donating to ChildSpree, please visit www.GiveBGC.org or call Liz at 707-441-1030.

Attached: ChildSpree donation from Eureka Broadcasting, ChildSpree graphic

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The Boys & Girls Club of the Redwoods exists to empower youth (ages 6 through 18) to reach their full potential as responsible, caring individuals through professionally led programs and activities that are fun, positive and relevant in a safe, supportive and healthy environment.

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