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Media Contact: Tina L. Ashe, Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida, 407.841.6855 or tashe@bgccf.org.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF CENTRAL FLORIDA RECEIVES \$7,500 STEM GRANT FROM THE SYMANTEC FOUNDATION

Funds to Give Local Youth Access to STEM Programs After School and Prepare Them for the Jobs of Tomorrow

Orlando, FL (January 7, 2014) – This year, Club members at Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida (BGCCF) will have an opportunity to learn more about science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) during after school hours thanks to a \$7,500 grant from the Symantec Foundation. The funds will be used to enhance STEM activities at our East Altamonte Branch that will help local youth prepare for a great future.

Nearly all 30 of the fastest-growing occupations will require at least some education and experience in STEM, and by 2018, 1.2 million U.S. jobs will be available in STEM-related fields according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Through this grant, youth at BGCCF will have an opportunity to develop the skills necessary for success in the 21st century workplace.

“These critically needed funds will help our Seminole County Club motivate the next generation to develop a passion for science and technology,” said Mack Reid, BGCCF Chief Operations Officer. “Programs like these build students’ skills to prepare them for the jobs of tomorrow. We are grateful to Symantec for their partnership and support of Club members at our East Altamonte Branch.

This STEM program will offer hands-on, project-based learning experiences in ways that will broaden future job paths for our Club members. Through these experiences, youth are given the chance to learn in engaging ways and explore different career opportunities in STEM.

“Through our partnership with Boys & Girls Clubs, we hope to motivate the next-generation to develop a passion for technology as most of the fastest-growing occupations will require at least some STEM background,” said Julie Talbot-Hubbard, vice president and chief security officer at Symantec. “STEM programs build students’ skills to help them graduate from high school and ultimately compete and succeed in today’s highly technical workforce.”

To learn more about STEM programs and opportunities at BGCCF, visit www.bgccf.org.

About Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida:

Since 1944, Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida has provided at-risk children from the local community, between the ages of 6-18, with a safe place to learn and grow. Our membership totals nearly 13,000 young people at 29 Clubs and middle school sites in Brevard, Orange, Osceola and Seminole Counties – Great Futures Start at Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida.

The mission of Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida is to inspire and enable all young people, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens. Learn more at **407.841.6855**, www.bgccf.org or [facebook.com/bgccf](https://www.facebook.com/bgccf).

About Boys & Girls Clubs of America

For more than 100 years, Boys & Girls Clubs of America (GreatFutures.org) has enabled young people most in need to achieve great futures as productive, caring, responsible citizens. Today, more than 4,000 Clubs serve nearly 4 million young people through Club membership and community outreach.

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Clubs are located in cities, towns, public housing and on Native American lands throughout the country, and serve military families in BGCA-affiliated Youth Centers on U.S. military installations worldwide. They provide a safe place, caring adult mentors, fun and friendship, and high-impact youth development programs on a daily basis during critical non-school hours. Club programs promote academic success, good character and citizenship, and healthy lifestyles. In a Harris Survey of alumni, 57 percent said the Club saved their lives. National headquarters are located in Atlanta. Learn more at <http://bgca.org/facebook> and <http://bgca.org/twitter>.

About Symantec:

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