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**Boys & Girls Clubs of Western PA Waives Membership Fees for
Federal and Military Employees During Government Shutdown**

130 Year-Old Nonprofit Organization Offers Support to Families Experiencing Lost Wages

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pittsburgh PA - January 9, 2019 - Boys & Girls Clubs of Western PA is waiving fees for the duration of the government shutdown and one additional month after the shutdown is lifted at all eight Club sites in the Greater Pittsburgh Area. Club members whose families are Military or Federal employees impacted by the shutdown will have new membership or membership renewal fees waived.

“Several local and national businesses have stepped up efforts to help federal workers while they go without pay for some time. We are proud to also take steps by providing scholarships for new or existing Members who are the children of Federal or Military employees impacted by the shutdown,” says Boys & Girls Clubs of Western PA President & CEO, Dr. Lisa Abel-Palmieri. “Our goal is to provide every child with the essential tools needed for a successful and bright future without gaps in participation due to financial difficulty,” said Dr. Abel-Palmieri.

Afterschool Programs at Boys & Girls Clubs are open to all youth ages 5-18 years old and include accredited Programs like *Power Hour* Homework Help with accredited teachers, STEAM-based learning platforms and Fitness & Recreation. All Clubs serve hot meals after school at no additional charge. “Boys & Girls Clubs are an essential support system that our Members and their families depend on everyday during the school year. We proudly serve over 7,600 youth; and during periods of uncertainty, our obligation is to be there for these families in every way that we can,” says Chief Operations Officer, Juan Perez. Families who are impacted can find out more by talking to Branch Directors at each Club. Club locations can be found at www.bgcwpa.org/locations.

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ABOUT BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Boys & Girls Clubs of Western Pennsylvania is a non-profit organization that is part of a national network of Boys & Girls Clubs united in this mission: "To inspire and enable all young people, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances, to reach their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens of their community, America, and the world." The organization is governed by an active and engaged Board of Directors with a formal committee structure

representing a cross section of community leaders. Boys & Girls Clubs of Western Pennsylvania began their service to the young people of our community in 1888, and currently serves over 7,600 young people between the ages of 5-18 years old. The long-standing history of successful service to youth in the community sets the organization apart from others. Staff and volunteers operate year-round programs in eight facilities throughout Pittsburgh and Allegheny County.

www.bgcwpa.org