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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Boys & Girls Club Receives Sweet Award from the Paradise Chocolate Fest**

PARADISE, Ca. – Leaders of the Paradise Chocolate Fest were pleased to present a 2010 Grant Award to the Boys & Girls Club of Paradise Ridge, Thursday, December 2. Boys & Girls Club Teen Center director, Josh “Hoppie” Campos and After School Education and Safety (ASES) Program director, Michael Brown were on hand to receive a donation of \$5,000, an annual award allocated from grant reserve distributable funds of the Paradise Chocolate Fest. This year’s grant was made in memory of Alice Smith, a longtime supporter of the Boys & Girls Club and the Chocolate Fest.

Criteria adopted for use in selecting qualified charities to receive an annual grant award from the Chocolate Fest include:

**Nature of Charity** – The charity shall be directly or indirectly involved with the educational, enrichment or recreational health and well-being of children.

**Number** – Consideration shall be given to the number of children benefiting from the annual allocation of funds, as well as the manner and extent to which such children will benefit.

**Location of the Charity** – The principal location of the charity and its activities shall be on the Paradise Ridge, Ca.

**Financial Capacity of the Charity** – The principal location of the charity should demonstrate a current need for funds and that prior funds and programs have been prudently managed. The charity should demonstrate that its general and administrative expenses are comparable to those of similar charities. It is not a criterion that the charity be currently under-financed.

Youth organizations on the Paradise Ridge that benefited from the 2010 Paradise Chocolate Fest include - Achieve Charter School, Boys and Girls Club, Girl Scouts, Northern California Ballet, Paradise Dancers, Paradise Rotary Interact, Paradise Youth Soccer, Project Vision, SHINE, St. Thomas More and Youth for Change.

### **2011 PARADISE CHOCOLATE FEST**

Plans are currently underway for the 6th Annual International Award Winning Paradise Chocolate Fest, scheduled for May 14, 2011 at Terry Ashe Park on the Skyway. Special events throughout the day will include a Chocolate Pancake Breakfast, Chocolate Chase Fun Run/Walk, Chocolate Cuisine Challenge, Chocolate Candy Land, Lollipop Ice Cream Shoppe, Chocolate Pie Eating and Cookie Stacking Contests, Super Sensational Ice Cream Sundae Spoon-Feeding Contest, a variety of Musical Entertainment and live chocolate demonstrations. The Chocolate Fest is a delightful extravaganza to indulge your love of all things chocolate. More importantly, the Paradise Chocolate Fest has been developed to raise critical funds in support of non-profit youth organizations on the Ridge.

### **ABOUT THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Paradise Ridge was founded by a group of community members in 1995 and opened its doors at 6241 the Skyway in November of 1998. It started with 4 initial members and soon grew to about 65 youth and teens a day. By 2006 the club, thanks to funding through Butte County Probation Department Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, established a portion of the site for teens only.

In 2007 Paradise Unified School District partnered with the Boys & Girls Club and was awarded funding from the California State Department of Education to serve up to 83 students each from Ponderosa Elementary, Paradise Elementary and Pine Ridge School in Magalia. The club moved its elementary school programs from the original site on the Skyway to the school sites. The Skyway facility, which is shared with Youth for Change, the Family Resource Center and many other social service and community organizations, was converted into a teen center called **The Club**. Currently the BGCPR serves over 300 youth ages 6 to 18 each day and has over 1,000 members.

To participate as a beneficiary of the 2011 Chocolate Fest, sponsor, vendor, queen candidate or for more information, please contact Executive Director, Debbie Moseley, 530-342-4896.

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