



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Fort Worth Helps Prepare Brighter Future for 110 Teens with \$10,000 Grant from Taco Bell**

*Grant Allowed Clubs to Impact High School Graduation Odds for Area Youth*

**Fort Worth, Texas -- August 5, 2010** -- The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Fort Worth changed the odds for 110 local students with the help of a recent \$10,000 grant from the Taco Bell Foundation for Teens. The grant was designed to fund real world experience programs that help encourage students to stay in school and consider future career possibilities.

As one of 250 organizations nationwide to receive a portion of a \$1.8 million grant from the Foundation, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Fort Worth provided area teens with after school tutoring, educational field trips, college campus visits, test prep instruction for the TAKS, ACT and SAT, and assistance through an informational career panel. The panel, comprised of various professionals from the community, spoke to the teens about their careers and education.

According to statistics from *Education Week*, Texas graduation rates are approximately 65 percent, overall, but drop even lower to 56% for Latino students and 53% for African-American students. During the 2008-2009 school year, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Fort Worth members who participated in the education and college prep programs had a graduation rate of 94% with 72% of seniors enrolling in college in the fall, a rate significantly higher than their peers. High school dropouts experience a significant earnings gap and face challenges in finding stable, well-paying jobs. The costs of dropping out are born not just by individuals, but by the communities in

which they live, and the rest of society. The class of 2008, for example, will cost the nation more than an estimated \$319 billion in lost wages, taxes and productivity over the course of their lifetime.

"We are honored to be recognized by the Taco Bell Foundation for Teens for our commitment to teen graduation and success," said Daphne Barlow Stigliano, president of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Fort Worth. "It's because of partnerships like this that we are able to offer the type of real world experience that ultimately helps inspire our youth to stay in school, dream big and be great."

Teen programs and opportunities like those made possible by the grant from the Taco Bell Foundation for Teens, are working. According to a Harris Interactive Survey of Boys & Girls Club alumni across the U.S., 90 percent of alumni graduate from high school or obtain a GED; nearly two-thirds reported that Club staff contributed to their success in high school; and 70 percent credited their time at the Club as helping them discover subject areas they enjoyed.

Since 1995, the Taco Bell Foundation for Teens and its supporting programs have helped more than 500,000 teens stay in school and remain on the path to graduation through its national partnership with Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

"The teen graduation crisis is a major hurdle for America as we strive to remain an innovative and powerful global leader," said Bob Fulmer, executive director of the Taco Bell Foundation for Teens. "The vital partnerships and programs we are funding today allow Taco Bell to help teens build a foundation for a future success through the vehicle of graduation."

Taco Bell Foundation for Teens raises funds through the generosity of Taco Bell customers and the support of Taco Bell Corp., its employees, franchisees and partners. Canisters are placed in participating restaurants so patrons can support teen programs by donating their spare change. Additionally, franchisees have developed fundraising and volunteer opportunities within their own communities to support local teen programs. On April 23, 2009, participating Taco Bell restaurants across the country conducted the first-ever nationwide fundraiser to support Taco Bell Foundation for Teens, donating 15 percent of gross sales that day, totaling \$1.8 million.

### **About The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Fort Worth**

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Fort Worth provides enriching programs for youth from disadvantaged circumstances to develop the qualities needed to become responsible citizens. Currently serving over 12,000 youth through its programs, branches and outreach services, the Club has been reaching out to the most vulnerable in the

Fort Worth community for 84 years, seeking to change the odds for girls and boys whom other youth agencies fail to reach. For more information, visit [www.fortworthkids.org](http://www.fortworthkids.org).

### **About The Taco Bell Foundation for Teens**

The Taco Bell Foundation, Inc., dba Taco Bell Foundation for Teens (TBFT), a non-profit 501(c)(3) public benefit corporation, is committed to addressing the growing number of high school dropouts in the U.S. by providing at-risk youth with mentors and real-world experiences that will motivate them to stay in school and achieve more in life. Since 1995, TBFT has donated more than \$28 million to support teen programs at Boys & Girls Clubs of America and other teen-serving organizations with the help of ongoing customer, franchise and employee donations. For more information about TBFT, visit [www.tacobellfoundationforteens.org](http://www.tacobellfoundationforteens.org).

### **About Taco Bell Corp.**

Taco Bell Corp. ("Taco Bell"), a subsidiary of Yum! Brands, Inc., (NYSE: YUM), is the nation's leading Mexican-style quick service restaurant chain. Taco Bell serves tacos, burritos, signature quesadillas, Grilled Stuft Burritos®, nachos and other specialty items such as Crunchwrap Supreme, in addition to the 79-89-99 WHY PAY MORE™! Value Menu. Taco Bell serves more than 36.8 million consumers each week in nearly 5,600 restaurants in the U.S.

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