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**San José Celebrates the Reopening of
Eastside Boys and Girls Clubhouse**
K.O.N.A. neighborhood eyes space for education and recreation uses

San José --- The renovated Smythe Clubhouse for the Boys and Girls Club in East San José celebrated its grand reopening yesterday after a \$750,000 improvement project funded by the San Jose Redevelopment Agency (SJRA) and the William D. Smythe Family Foundation.

The project includes a new facade, new paint, upgraded bathrooms, new lighting, floor and wall coverings, impact-resistance windows, front entry and reception area, and renovations to the gymnasium.

Joining the Boys and Girls Club of Silicon Valley and residents from the King Ocala Neighborhood Area (K.O.N.A.) for the celebration were San José Mayor Ron Gonzales, Councilmember Dave Cortese, and William D. Smythe.

“Our children are the winners as the result of this partnership with our community,” said Mayor Gonzales. “The people of San José have shown again what can be done when we all work together to achieve the most important goals for our neighborhoods and families.”

The K.O.N.A neighborhood ranked improvements to the clubhouse as the residents’ priority No. 3 in their neighborhood revitalization plan through the San José Strong Neighborhoods Initiative (SNI).

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Formerly known as the Eastside Boys & Girls Clubhouse, the renovated building is located at 2195 Cunningham Avenue where the Boys and Girls Club has owned and operated it since 1968. The clubhouse serves over 750 members per year with after-school recreation and educational programs, but due to its age and high usage, it was in need of extensive repairs.

“The community’s interest in revitalizing this clubhouse, to the point where they ranked this project so high in their top ten list, really demonstrates their commitment to safe and positive outcomes for youth,” said Councilmember Dave Cortese, adding, “this is yet another example of residents pooling together their talents and time for the betterment of the whole.”

Bill Smythe of William D. Smythe Family Foundation provided \$500,000 for the renovation while the San Jose Redevelopment Agency provided \$250,000 additional funding to finish interior and façade improvements.

In addition to the Clubhouse renovation, the Boys and Girls Club will use a federal grant of \$750,000 from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to pay for a new soccer and football field.

“We continue to find creative ways to deliver neighborhood priorities in SNI areas,” said Harry Mavrogenes, Interim Executive Director for SJRA. “This project is an example of how the Agency collaborates with many partners to improve the quality of life for the San José community.”

The Boys and Girls Club provides the community with programs and activities in the areas of character and leadership development; education and career opportunities; health and life skills; sports, fitness and recreation; and the arts.

“We’re proud to provide opportunities in an area of San José where the community needs, wants and appreciates our services”, said Steve Tedesco, Executive Director for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Silicon Valley.

The San Jose Redevelopment Agency is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all who live and work in San José. Governed by the City Council, the SJRA facilitates and oversees comprehensive programs for development to revitalize the City’s Downtown, neighborhoods, and industrial areas.

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For more information:

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