



HINOJOSA ANNOUNCES \$139,000 MENTORING GRANT FOR THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF MCALLEN

Washington, DC – Congressman Rubén Hinojosa (D-TX) announced today that the Boys & Girls Club of McAllen has been awarded \$139,000 by the U.S. Department of Education for mentoring education. The funds will be used to provide one-on-one mentoring relationships to approximately 500 at-risk area youth. The money will also make it possible for college students from UT-Pan American and South Texas College to mentor youth.

“The McAllen Boys & Girls Club has impacted the lives of thousands of young men and women in our region. Their at-risk prevention curriculum is incredibly effective at taking kids off the streets and giving them the support they need to succeed,” said Hinojosa. “This grant will help them reach even more at-risk youth who need individualized attention and access to the services these clubs offer.”

“Our alumni credit our mentors with changing or even saving their lives. As the youth development specialists in our region, we are thrilled to be awarded this grant that will afford us the opportunity to begin one-on-one mentoring for our at-risk youth. This program will allow us to impact the future of hundreds of students who need and deserve a role model in their lives,” said Laura Reagan-Porras, Executive Director McAllen Boys & Girls Club.

The grant will directly affect the Club’s Youth First Afterschool Alliance. Launched over a year ago, the collaborative effort is aimed at the development of area youth through outreach in the areas of health, academic success, gang prevention, and character building. Partners include the McAllen Independent School District, Sylvan Learning Center, and Quest Academy of Idea Public Schools.

Partner agencies provide learning and prevention services during after-school hours through the use of culturally relevant mentoring relationships that confront social barriers. The Youth First Afterschool Alliance has served more than 600 at-risk youth and teens by engaging students in positive activities and minimizing the negative effects of social factors in their lives. It has built up an impressive record of success reflected in improved test scores and credit recovery.

The Boys & Girls Club of McAllen has played an integral role in the community for 42 years, providing daily programs and services to more than 15,000 young people. It is part of a national network of more than 3,700 neighborhood-based facilities annually serving more than 4.4 million young people, primarily from disadvantaged circumstances.