

Funds Flowing for Boys, Girls Club

February 1, 2006

Only three weeks after announcing its establishment, the Boys & Girls Club of Phillips County has received over \$26,000 in donations.

"We are extremely grateful for the support we have received from the community," said Anna Skorupa, president of the board of directors of the Boys and Girls Club of Phillips County and a teacher at Eliza Miller Junior High School. "It is wonderful to see the level of commitment that the community as a whole has to positively impacting the lives of all its young people."

Two weeks ago, the Ophelia Polk Moore Trust, a century-old fund dedicated to helping disadvantaged youth, contributed \$10,000 to the Boys and Girls Club of Phillips County.

"We are proud to support the establishment of a Boys and Girls Club here in Phillips County," said Gina Pillow, a member of the board that administers the Ophelia Polk Moore Trust. "Boys & Girls Clubs have an outstanding reputation nationwide for providing life-changing experiences and programs in communities just like ours. For us, investing in our young people through the Boys and Girls Club is money well-spent."

Around the same time as the donation from the Ophelia Polk Moore Fund, St. John's Episcopal Church was moved to contribute \$5,000 to the organization.

"We see the Boys and Girls Club as a natural extension of our ministry at St. John's," said Father Travis Frank. "Young people need good news. The positive role models, moral guidance, and sense of hope that Boys and Girls clubs provide is an essential part of communicating the 'good news' to young people."

About a week after the contribution from St. John's, an anonymous donor contributed over \$11,000 to the Club.

"The generosity of the community has been truly overwhelming," said board member and youth counselor Karlos Parham. "As a father of young children, I cannot thank the community enough for the service they are doing for my children and all the young people of Phillips County by supporting the Boys and Girls Club."

There are over 3,700 Boys & Girls Clubs nationwide, serving more than 4.4 million children each year. More than half of all Boys and Girls Club alumni nationwide say that being a member of the club "saved their life."

"We hope that others will join us in bringing life-saving programs to more young people in Phillips County," said Father Frank. "We look upon our decision to support the Boys and Girls Club not only as an investment in our young people, but as an investment in the community as a whole."