April 26, 2014 – Arlington

The Arlington Boys & Girls Club plays a critical role in the lives of our local families. We are so fortunate to have this facility which services our community in so many ways. For families with school age children, this is the place where activities are planned and organized, sporting event and competition takes place, friends meet in a safe environment, and there is guidance from staff to assure a wholesome experience. There are places set aside for kids to do homework and for groups to meet. This organization is exactly what our community needs to keep our children’s energies focused on positive activities.

There is great value here to all of us whether you have children or not. Whether kids are here for sports, games, doing homework, or just hanging out with friends, the social contact they enjoy keeps them busy with positive activities. There is strong evidence that these kids will do better in school and are less likely to use drugs or form gangs. These outcomes affect all of us, and the quality of life in our entire community is better if our children are healthy and happy.

It is clearly evident that our families need the Arlington Boys & Girls Club, and right now it is clear that they need us. The Club’s facilities are bursting at the seams. The numbers of kids and families using the Club facilities has skyrocketed over the years. As a result, more space is desperately needed.

So this is where we must step in. Plans have been drawn up to expand the original building. A new gym, an expanded teen center, more study areas and community meeting space are all part of the plan. But funding from within the Boys & Girls Club is not nearly enough. Our families need us, as individuals and organizations, to contribute the funds needed for expansion. In fact, approximately $1.6 million will be needed to complete this project.

The Arlington Boys & Girls Club has launched a campaign to raise this money. They need pledges from people like you and me to get this effort off the ground and bring it to completion. The Arlington Rotary Club has pledged $50,000 and will once again use Duck Dash funds to fulfill this commitment. But much more is needed. Please give strong consideration to helping with this project. Our children and families are depending on you.

Jeff Huleatt, D.D.S