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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tree Planting Initiative to Impact Local Teens in Foster Care

Greater Louisville Sierra Club and Highland Tree Planting Initiative to provide a “green barrier” to improve living conditions for teens in foster care at Boys & Girls Haven.

Louisville, KY – On Sunday, January 5th, local volunteers from the Highlands Tree Planting Initiative and Bardstown Road Improvement Group will place 24 large spruce trees on Boys & Girls Haven’s residential foster care campus (2301 Goldsmith Lane). This project is made possible through a generous grant from the Metro Sewer District (MSD) via the Greater Louisville Sierra Club (GLSC).

Due to its location at the intersection of Bardstown Road and the Watterson Expressway, Boys & Girls Haven, a 501(c)3 foster care agency, experiences significant levels of air, light and noise pollution.

“When our doors opened in 1950, we were on the edge of town; the Watterson Expressway did not even exist,” says Amanda Masterson, Boys & Girls Haven CEO. “With no sound barrier and an increase in vehicles on the interstate over the years, the kids living on our campus are exposed to ambient noise 24/7. This project is an exciting improvement for our young people as we head into our 70th Anniversary year.”

Led by Joshua White, Chair of Urban Heat Island Mitigation for GLSC, this is the club’s second planting project. In his separate leadership role with Highland Tree Planting Initiative, White has overseen more than 17 planting projects in the past 6 years, accounting for more than 1000 urban trees.

According to White, these 24 trees are part of a larger, three-phase plan to significantly increase the tree canopy at Boys & Girls Haven. When all three phases are complete, White anticipates a decrease in noise pollution from 90dB of sound pressure to 70dB on the campus in addition to a reduction of up to 90% in light pollution and 20% in air pollution.

Says White, “Sound pollution, air pollution, and light pollution are all linked to chronic disease and certain types of learning disability and development disorders. So in addition to the higher temperature effects of the Urban Heat Island Effect on cardiovascular health and livability, Boys and Girls Haven has significant issues from its proximity to the Expressway and Bardstown Road interchange.”

Volunteers will work on planting trees from 9 AM – noon on January 5th.

[Click for images and more info on the Highlands Tree Planting Initiative Facebook page.](#)

Boys & Girls Haven is a full-service foster care agency serving children from across the state of Kentucky. Since 1950, the 501(c)3 nonprofit has transformed the lives of thousands of abandoned, abused and neglected children by providing stability, education, and life skills that will lead to success in adulthood. We employ a multifaceted, therapeutic approach including residential and in-home foster care, transitional living programs, career and life skills training, preventative community-based counseling services, and a variety of other programs and services.

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