

United Way Youth Venture

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Keystone Club Making a Difference for Members at Framingham B&G Club”

Framingham, MA– December 15, 2009 – Congratulations to the members of the Keystone program at the Framingham Boys & Girls Club Clubhouse who are also members of the newly launched United Way of Tri-County Youth Venture Team, called **Keystone Café**. The Keystone members plan to start a café at the clubhouse to provide the clubhouse members and staff healthy nutritious food at an affordable price.

With only vending machines available at the clubhouse, members can only get snacks and water. “We plan on selling fruit, healthy snacks, salad, Gatorade, and juice”, said Amanda Ramos, one of the venture team leaders “we hope that our café will help kids eat healthy, but will encourage other kids in Framingham to join the club.”

The team formally presented their idea before a Selection Panel of community members. The panelist included Pauline Lonergan representing BJ’s Wholesale Club Inc, Valerie Meadows representing Fitts Insurance, Chris Duane from the Metrowest Boys & Girls Club, and Jim Cieslar from the United Way of Tri-County. After reviewing the project, the panelists unanimously decided to award the Team a \$1,000 United Way Youth Venture grant. “It is great to know that youth have these ideas about how to make community better” said Pauline.

Keystone Café plans on using the funding to purchase materials for their café. This includes a refrigerator, convection oven, microwave, food to sell, utensils, and other materials. They are also going to ask community members for their support in fundraisers and donations so that they can keep the prices of the products affordable to the club members. **Keystone Café** is the sixth team to be launched out of the United Way of Tri-County Youth Venture Partnership.

Criteria to start a United Way Venture Team: must be a new club, service, or organization; provide a positive, lasting community benefit; be created, run, and managed by youth ages 12-20; have clear goals, a committed team, a realistic budget; and, have a non-controlling adult mentor. Each Team receives up to \$1,000 in Venture seed funding.

About United Way Youth Venture Partnership

In July 2008, United Way of Tri County and Ashoka’s Youth Venture began a partnership to empower youth in our service area to make social change in their community. For more information about the partnership, participating as a panelist, or to become involved and support **Keystone Café**, please contact Robyn McLaughlin at 508-872-3291, ext 4858 or visit our website www.uwotc.org

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About Youth Venture

Ashoka's Youth Venture® is a global movement of young changemakers. Youth Venture inspires and invests in teams of young people to start their own sustainable social Ventures and connects them into a powerful global network. Collectively, these young changemakers are redefining the youth years as a time of initiative and positive change. For more information, please visit www.GenV.net