



F&M BANK LENDS SUPPORT TO BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

DATELINE: *Lodi, Calif., Dec. 19, 2012...* Kent A. Steinwert, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Farmers & Merchants Bank of Central California is pleased to announce the Bank's support of the newly formed Boys & Girls Club of Stanislaus County based in Modesto.

"F&M Bank is a long-time advocate of programs that support youth in the communities we serve. We are proud to help establish a solid financial footing and leadership for this valuable community resource," stated Kent Steinwert.

The Bank's team of 27 volunteers provided over 250 hours assisting with the Boys & Girls Club's Haunted House Awareness and Fundraising Campaign. The event raised nearly \$20,000 to help establish a solid start to the organization's inaugural year. In addition to staffing the event and providing fun financial education activities for children and teens, F&M Bank purchased and donated six Diamondback bicycles and held a free raffle of one bike on each night of the haunted house.

"With the elimination of a local YMCA, reduction of after school programs resulting in many children left on wait lists, truancy and suspension rates over 20%, concerned Modesto leaders came together to find ways to insure each child has the resources for academic success, to lead a healthy lifestyle, and for character development. It was soon evident that a Boys & Girls Club was desperately needed in our community of Modesto," stated Mike R. Garcia, Secretary and Board of Director of the Boys & Girls Club of Stanislaus County, and an F&M Bank Commercial Loan Officer.

Boys & Girls Clubs of America was started in 1860 with a mission to "Enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens." Studies show that on school days from 3 to 6 PM a child or youth is most

likely to be a victim of a crime as these are peak times for gang-related violence. Lack of supervision also puts kids at greater risk of truancy, poor grades, mental depression, and substance abuse. Through education and career, character & leadership, and arts programs as well as health and life skills and sports, fitness and recreation activities the Boys & Girls Club helps address these issues.

Farmers & Merchants Bank of Central California was founded in 1916 and operates as F&M Bank, a full service, locally owned and operated community bank with over \$1.9 billion in assets. F&M Bank proudly serves California's Great Central Valley through 24 convenient locations from Sacramento to Merced.

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Pictured Below is Mike R. Garcia, Secretary and Board of Director of the Boys & Girls Club of Stanislaus County, and an F&M Bank Commercial Loan Officer with Michael Haflich, age 7, who was one of our lucky bike winners.

