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Local Publisher's Donation Brings History to Life for Kids in Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Dallas's *Project Learn*

March 17, 2009 (DALLAS) – A Dallas-based publisher's donation will offer a helpful homework aid for kids attending the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Dallas (BGCD). Schlager Group is donating \$16,000 in digital and print history references to *Project Learn* in BGCD's 14 locations in the city's schools, neighborhoods and housing developments.

Project Learn is an educational program aimed at helping BGCD youth and teens tackle core classes at school and, in particular, pass the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS). Schlager Group is donating digital and print sets of its acclaimed Milestone Documents series of library reference works, which help students and teachers explore and understand the original text of history's most important speeches, laws and legal cases.

"These references will provide knowledge to our teens well beyond what a textbook alone could ever accomplish," said Juany Valdespino-Gaytan, Director of Education, *Project Learn*, Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Dallas. "I don't know of any other reference collection that could bring history to life more than Milestone Documents."

"I believe in the work of the Boys and Girls Clubs and the difference they make in our community. We're eager to do our part to support that work," said Neil Schlager, founder and president of Schlager Group. "This is a donation that will help Club kids and their teachers and tutors better understand primary sources, which have an increasingly common presence at the heart of history education. And as a history buff, I hope that we will help some students discover a love of history by engaging them in its original words and artifacts."

First published in 2008, Milestone Documents has been acclaimed by librarians and history teachers for its unique format and readable, riveting commentary. The series combines full-text primary documents with expert analysis, creating a format that boosts students' grasp of the subjects and makes their study time more productive. Schlager Group's donation to BGCD includes extensive digital databases for club locations that

have computers and Internet access. Multivolume print sets are being given to the four clubs without computers. "We're connecting the kids in *Project Learn* with the foremost experts on documents such as the Emancipation Proclamation, the U.S. Constitution and JFK's inaugural address. That's a big leg up for study time," said Mr. Schlager.

BGCD launched *Project Learn* in response to research that shows that high-achieving students spend out-of-school hours participating in activities that reinforce the skills and knowledge they are learning in school. Through *Project Learn*, BGCD incorporates high-yield learning activities—those that directly contribute to school success—into the Club's daily program schedule. Clubs provide approximately 20 to 25 hours per week of these activities. Currently, BGCD has *Project Learn* in 14 Club locations throughout Dallas County. These sites include three school-based Clubs, five located in housing developments and six traditional, stand-alone facilities. In total, BGCD offers programs to more than 1,000 youth daily.

About Schlager Group

Founded in 1997, Dallas-based Schlager Group has established itself as a leader in primary source education and history reference. Its award-winning Milestone Documents series of library reference books include *Milestone Documents in American History* (2008) and *Milestone Documents of American Leaders* (2009). Through the Milestone Documents Newsletter (<http://www.milestonedocuments.com/newsletter.php>) and Milestone Documents Blog (<http://blog.milestonedocuments.com/>), the company has built a thriving online community of historians, educators and students focused on the study and teaching of primary source documents.