



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF PORTLAND METROPOLITAN AREA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LOCAL TEEN NAMED OREGON YOUTH OF THE YEAR
BY BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA**

Portland, Oregon, April 13, 2009– Delores McDaniel, an 11-year member of Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland has been named the Youth of the Year for the state of Oregon by Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA). In addition to winning this prestigious title, McDaniel will also receive a \$1,000 scholarship from the Reader’s Digest Foundation. She is among hundreds of Youth of the Year winners across the country recognized by Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) for her sound character, leadership skills and willingness to give back to the community.

Being named Youth of the Year is the highest honor a Boys & Girls Club member can receive. The title recognizes outstanding contributions to a member’s family, school, community and Boys & Girls Club, as well as personal challenges and obstacles overcome. This program was founded over 60 years ago through the generosity of the Reader’s Digest Foundation.

“The Reader’s Digest Foundation has been the proud sponsor of the Youth of the Year program since 1947,” said Susan Fraysse Russ, executive director, Reader’s Digest Foundation. “For over 60 years, we have had the great honor of saluting amazing teens, like Delores McDaniel for their dedication to their families, Club, community, and their academic and career goals.”

Delores survived foster care and was adopted when she was 8 years old. McDaniel, now 18, recognizes the importance of the Club and the impact it had on her. “The statistics say that I should not be who I am today—a strong and confident young woman about to complete high school and begin my next journey through life, into college. I owe this to my family, both my mother and the Boys & Girls Club. Being a member of the Club is like having a family that will never turn their back on you; a family that will support you until you have the skills to coach and encourage others.”

Delores is an active member of the Inukai Family Boys & Girls Club, volunteering over 200 hours in the past year. She has been involved with Keystone Club, SMART Girls, Kids in Control, Triple Play and is now a teen leader at the Club. “The Club and its programs have transformed me,” reflects McDaniel. “Supporting and uplifting youth is my way of giving back to my Club and to my community.”

“Delores and all Youth of the Year nominees are living proof that Boys & Girls Clubs across the country are fulfilling their mission of inspiring and enabling young people,” said Roxanne Spillett, president, BGCA. “We are most appreciative to the Reader’s Digest Foundation for their long-time support of our Youth of the Year program and for helping Club members attain their goals.”

This summer, McDaniel will compete against other youth from states located in BGCA’s Pacific Region. If named regional winner, she will be awarded a \$10,000 college scholarship and advance to the national competition in Washington. The National Youth of the Year receives an additional \$15,000 college scholarship and will be installed by President Barack Obama during a ceremony in the Oval Office.

About Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland Metropolitan Area

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland Metropolitan Area (www.bgcportland.org) is a youth guidance and development agency that has provided a safe and positive place for kids to go after school since 1946. For just \$5 per year, children ages 6-18 can attend the Boys & Girls Clubs, which offer programs in five core areas: the arts; sports, fitness and recreation; health and life skills; education and career development; and character and leadership development. The Boys & Girls Clubs serve more than 13,000 youth annually at 20 locations throughout the Portland metropolitan area.

About Boys & Girls Clubs of America

For more than 100 years, Boys & Girls Clubs of America (www.bgca.org) has been changing and saving young lives, providing hope and opportunity for kids who need them most. Today, some 4,300 Clubs serve some 4.8 million young people through Club membership and community outreach. Known as The Positive Place for Kids, Boys & Girls Clubs can be found all across the country and on U.S. military bases throughout the world. Clubs provide young people 6-18 years old with guidance-oriented character development programs conducted by trained, professional staff. In communities large and small, Clubs positively impact lives and help young people reach their full potential as productive, caring citizens. Key Boys & Girls Club programs emphasize leadership development; education and career exploration; community service; financial literacy; health and life skills; the arts; sports, fitness and recreation; and family outreach. In a recent Harris Survey of Club alumni, 57 percent said the Club saved their life. National headquarters are located in Atlanta.

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