

VINELAND TEEN NAMED 'NORTHEAST YOUTH OF THE YEAR' BY BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA

Alexia Lewis from Boys & Girls Clubs of Vineland to receive \$40K college scholarship and vie for national title this fall

New York, Aug. 5, 2016 – Selected among 12 outstanding finalists from Boys & Girls Clubs across the region, Alexia Lewis has been named the Northeast Youth of the Year by Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA). She will receive a \$10,000 college scholarship from BGCA renewable for up to four years, leading to a total of \$40,000.

“My Boys & Girls Club showed me I could do anything I put my mind to, and that I am unstoppable,” said Lewis. “It was the Boys & Girls Club that helped me realize my passion and commitment to help children find their voice and instill a sense of strength and empowerment to those that have felt powerless.”

Lewis recently led a project called ‘Bags for Beauties’ to collect hygiene items for the homeless. She also started a self-esteem program called ‘You Can Too’ for middle school aged members. Lewis is relentlessly devoted to empowering others in her community. She is president of her Club’s leadership Keystone Club and captain of her high school’s dance team.

“My experience with the Club has helped me realize I am a dynamic person who is interested in helping others. Through my leadership skills, I am confident that I can make a big impact on other youth,” said Lewis.

With a nearly 70 year history, BGCA’s premier youth leadership program Youth of the Year recognizes outstanding contributions to a member’s family, school, community and Boys & Girls Club. The leadership program encourages Club members to reach their full potential by achieving academic success, leading healthy lifestyles and contributing to their communities. These extraordinary young leaders are shining examples and living proof that great futures start at Boys & Girls Clubs.

This fall, Lewis will travel to Washington D.C. to vie for the National Youth of the Year title, which comes with an additional \$100,000 scholarship and the opportunity to serve as a spokesperson for Boys & Girls Clubs of America representing four million Club kids and teens.

The Youth of the Year recognition program is presented by The Walt Disney Company, who has supported BGCA for more than 50 years, empowering young people to reach their full potential and providing youth with access to the tools they need to build the great futures they imagine. Toyota, Signature Sponsor of Youth of the Year, is dedicated to inspiring the next generations of engineers, thinkers and leaders who will help drive the American economy. Additional support is provided by University of Phoenix, a committed partner who has worked with BGCA on many Academic Success initiatives, and the Taco Bell Foundation, BGCA’s premier partner for teen empowerment.

For more information about the Youth of the Year program, visit youthoftheyear.org.

About Boys & Girls Clubs of America

For more than 150 years, Boys & Girls Clubs of America (<http://www.GreatFutures.org>) has enabled young people most in need to achieve great futures as productive, caring, responsible citizens. Today, more than 4,100 Clubs serve nearly 4 million young people annually through Club membership and community outreach. Clubs are located in cities, towns, public housing and on Native lands throughout the country, and serve military families in BGCA-affiliated Youth Centers on U.S. military installations worldwide. They provide a safe place, caring adult mentors, fun, friendship, and high-impact youth development programs on a daily basis during critical non-school hours. Priority programs emphasize academic success, good character and

citizenship, and healthy lifestyles. In a Harris Survey of alumni, 54 percent said the Club saved their lives. National headquarters are located in Atlanta. Learn more at <http://www.bgca.org/facebook> and <http://bgca.org/twitter>.

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Contact:

Sara Leutzinger, (404) 487-5624, sleutzinger@bgca.org