

## 2017 YOUTH OF THE YEAR FINALISTS

### Zy'are G. – Age 18



### Boys & Girls Club of Atlantic City

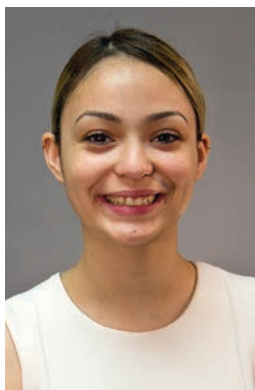
*"I strive everyday transforming myself into a smart, dedicated, hard-working contributor to my community and peers. We are the future!"*

Zy'are is a senior at Atlantic County Institute of Technology where he is captain of the basketball team and a dedicated member of SkillsUSA. Zy'are has been a Club member for seven years. He has held the positions of secretary, vice president and president of the Keystone Club. He is also a Junior Staff intern and a member of SMART Leaders, Money Matters, and Passport to Manhood. Zy'are has been recognized as Overall Club Member in 2016. His community initiatives include participating in the Villa Community Clean Up Project, in addition to assembling care packages for homeless individuals. Zy'are will attend Stockton University this fall to study business.

Career Interest: Business

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### Christina R. – Age 17



### Boys & Girls Club of Camden County

*"If you want to change the world, you first have to change what you see in the mirror."*

Christina is a junior at Camden County Technical High School where she serves on the student council for Future Business Leaders of America. She has been recognized on the honor roll and maintains a perfect attendance record. She has been a Club member for three years and has participated in Career Launch, Keystone Club, and SMART Girls. Christina's community service activities include volunteering as an assistant coordinator for SMART Girls. Christina plans to attend Rowan University to study journalism.

Career Interest: Motivational Speaker

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### Carlos P. – Age 18



### Boys & Girls Club of Clifton

*"My Club has taught me that I can be whatever I want to be. I should always dream big and go get it. I am ready to represent our dreamers."*

Carlos is a senior at Clifton High School and is in the top two percent of his class. He is the president of the Clifton Student Union and student representative of the Clifton Board of Education. He is also captain of the varsity track & field team. Carlos has been a Club member for five years and is the first male to volunteer at the Club's early childhood department. In 2016, he participated in the Bank of America Student Leaders program as an intern at the Club. Carlos is also the first Latino to be elected governor of the American Legion Jersey Boys State. His community service initiatives include volunteering at soup kitchens and high school open houses. He will attend Dartmouth College in the fall to study political science.

Career Interest: Supreme Court Justice

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### Malachi D. – Age 17

### Boys & Girls Club of Garfield



*"Work hard in silence, let success be your noise."*

Malachi is a junior at Garfield High School. He has been a Club member for twelve years. Malachi has participated in the Keystone Club, Passport to Manhood and Torch Club. Malachi's community service initiatives include the Passaic River Cleanup, Restore the Shore, Meals with a Mission as well as other outreach programs in Paterson. Malachi would like to attend Rutgers University to study business. He also plans to join the U.S. Army.

Career Interest: Accounting

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### Kaylah R. – Age 15

### Boys & Girls Club of Gloucester County



*"It's not about how much the Boys & Girls Club inspired me, it's about how I used that inspiration to succeed."*

Kaylah is a freshman at Freedom Prep Charter High School where she participates in basketball and a vocal performance group. She is a recipient of Bring Up Grades Award and various sports awards. Kaylah has been a Club member for three years. She is involved in the Club's STEM program, Triple Play, Keystone Club, SMART Girls and others. Her community service activities include helping facilitate youth groups and bingo. She has also participated in mission trips with her Club. Kaylah would like to attend UCLA to study medicine.

Career Interest: Pediatric Nurse

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### Patrick M. – Age 17

### Boys & Girls Club of Hawthorne



*"After my mother died, the Boys & Girls Club has become that motherly loving figure in my life. It helped me to become more open and be myself with others."*

Patrick is junior at Hawthorne High School where he maintains a 4.0 GPA while participating in varsity track & field, art club and stage managing school plays. He is also a member of the National Honor Society and Italian Honor Society. Patrick started at the Club daycare center and has been a Club member for fourteen years. He is involved in the Keystone Club and was recognized as the Keystone Member of the Year. Patrick's community service activities include participating in breast cancer walks and serving as a Junior Staff counselor at the Club's summer camp. Patrick intends to go to Pratt University to study architecture.

Career Interest: Architecture

## 2017 YOUTH OF THE YEAR FINALISTS

### *Ibrahim T. – Age 17*

### *Boys & Girls Clubs of Hudson County*



*"After arriving to the U.S. and joining the Club, my life went from monotony to a magical place. The least I can do is impact the community and invest in others like the Club has done for me."*

Ibrahim is a senior at James J. Ferris High School and is the valedictorian of his class. He is the vice president of the student council and captain of the varsity soccer team. He has been a Club member for three years and was the president of the Keystone Club. Ibrahim also participated in Career Launch, Money Matters and other Club programs. In 2015, he was a recipient of the National Keystone Project Award and Dr. Croak STEM Scholarship. Ibrahim's community service initiatives include volunteering at the robotics summer program. He will be attending Rutgers University in the fall where he plans to study engineering.

Career Interest: Civil Engineering and Government

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### *Alexander F. – Age 17*

### *Boys & Girls Clubs of Lodi/Hackensack*



*"The Club is a second home to me, a lively, bustling, always hectic home. Being able to represent all of the kids, Keystone members, and staff is humbling. Being chosen to show the best of all of them means I have to be at my best for them."*

Alexander is a junior at Bergen County Technical Schools. He is a member of the National Honor Society and has been recognized on the honor roll. Alexander has been a Club member for eleven years and participates in many Club programs such as Career Launch, Torch Club, Money Matters, Junior Staff and STEM. His community service initiatives include volunteering in food and blood drives and helping clean state parks and rivers. He hopes to attend John Hopkins University to study engineering.

Career Interest: Astrophysicist

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### *Kiara W. – Age 18*

### *Boys & Girls Club of Monmouth County*



*"Everything happens for a reason, this is why I am where I am."*

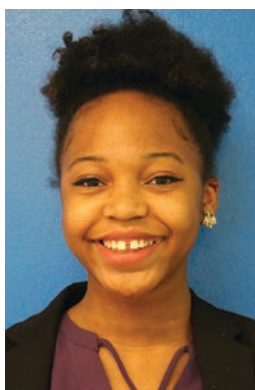
Kiara is a senior at Asbury Park High where she is the class president and on the girls varsity basketball team. She is on the honor roll and has been recognized as MVP and most improved player of the basketball team. She has been a Club member for ten years and is involved in SMART Girls and Keystone Club. Her community service initiatives include volunteering at soup kitchens and the basketball clinic. She will attend New Jersey City University to study biology.

Career Interest: Physical Therapist

## 2017 YOUTH OF THE YEAR FINALISTS

### N'Kaela W. – Age 18

### Boys & Girls Club of Newark



*"In a world where everyone wants to be 'normal', be 'divergent'."*

N'Kaela is a senior at North Star Academy where she is president of the National Honor Society and a publicist for the International Thespian Society. N'Kaela has been a Club member for twelve years and is the president of the Torch Club. She is also involved in SMART Moves, Keystone Club, Career Launch and other Club programs. N'Kaela is an intern for Audible and has published an article for Audible's online magazine, Audible Range. Her community service activities include a Random Acts of Kindness initiative where she assembled care packages for homeless individuals. She will attend Notre Dame University to study journalism/media studies.

Career Interest: Lawyer

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### Donovan S. – Age 16

### The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club of Newark Ironbound



*"Love, trust, and respect are the everyday lessons I learn when I walk through the doors of my Club."*

Donovan is a junior at Arts High School where he is the captain of the soccer team, a journalist and photographer. He has been recognized on the honor roll and has received the Salvation Army Community Service Award. Donovan has been a Club member for ten years and is involved in many Club programs including Imagine Makers and Passport to Manhood. Donovan was also the president of the Torch Club and the vice president of the Keystone Club. His community service initiatives include volunteering for Brothers Making a Difference and The Salvation Army Angel Tree Toy Drive. He hopes to attend Montclair State University to study journalism/media studies.

Career Interest: Television Producer

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### Kayla M. – Age 18

### Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest New Jersey



*"I live day to day with the mentality that success comes from hard work. When a challenge stands in the way, the only thing you can do is try with everything you have to overcome that adversity."*

Kayla is a senior at Wayne Valley High School. She is the vice president of her class, a member of the National Honor Society and a peer leader. Kayla is also a recipient of the AP Scholar with Distinction Award. She has been a Club member for thirteen years and has been the president of the Keystone Club for three years. Kayla is also a coach for the Club's soccer and basketball programs. Her community service initiatives include volunteering at St. Joseph's Wayne Hospital. She will attend Quinnipiac University to study medicine.

Career Interest: Physician Assistant

## 2017 YOUTH OF THE YEAR FINALISTS

### Kevin V. – Age 18



### Boys & Girls Clubs of Paterson & Passaic

*"Be someone nobody thought you could be."*

Kevin is a senior at Passaic Valley Regional High School and maintains a 3.9 GPA. He serves as the treasurer of the student senate, is in the National Honor Society and Passaic Valley Honor Society. Kevin is on the varsity soccer, lacrosse and swimming teams, and has been recognized as a scholar athlete. He has been a Club member for thirteen years and has participated in the Club's soccer, swimming and healthy habits programs. He has also helped coach the Club soccer and swim teams. Kevin's community services activities include fundraising for local community events. He will attend the University of Richmond in the fall to study political science.

Career Interest: Attorney or Governor

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### Monisola O. – Age 18



### Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County

*"I believe the world would be a much better place if we all decide to show a little more love."*

Monisola is a senior at Union High School where she is the advisor of her class and captain of the basketball team. She is a member of the National Honor Society and National Art Honor Society. Monisola has been a Club member for seven years. She is the president of the Keystone Club, a peer tutor and Junior Staff counselor at the Club. Monisola's community service activities include volunteering at Children's Specialized Hospital and helping coordinate food drives. Monisola plans to go to NJIT to study engineering.

Career Interest: Reproductive Endocrinologist

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### Essence J. – Age 16



### Boys & Girls Club of Vineland

*"You can do anything you set your mind to."*

Essence is a sophomore at Schalick High School where she participates in dance. She has been a Club member for two years and has been involved in many Club programs such as Keystone Club, SMART Girls, Date Smart, Money Matters, Career Launch, Project Learn and Power Hour. She was also vice president of the Keystone Club for two years. Her community service initiatives include Project Grow Community Gardens, Relay for Life and Bag for Beauties where she assembled packages with hygiene items for homeless women. She would like to go to Rutgers University to study social work.

Career Interest: Social Worker



## 2017 YOUTH OF THE YEAR FINALISTS

**Tiffany S. – Age 18**



**Earle Navy Youth Center**

*"The opportunities and experiences my Club has offered me helped me on the journey to become who I am today."*

Tiffany is a senior at Monmouth Regional High School. She is the president of Amnesty International and participates in the student council. She received the 2016 NJ Rising Scholars Award for Academic Excellence and Leadership. She has been a Club member for ten years where she is an active member of the Keystone Club and has held the positions of vice president and president. Tiffany's community service activities include participating as an activity leader for a study skills workshop and a safety volunteer for the Armed Forces Kids Run. Tiffany will be attending Embry Riddle Aeronautical University to study space sciences.

Career Interest: Astronomy

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**Kuanyah N. – Age 15**



**Fort Dix Youth Center**

*"The Dix Youth Programs is my go to place when things around me get difficult to handle. Every teachable moment that me and my adviser share empowers me to mentor my younger peers."*

Kuanyah is a freshman at Northern Burlington Regional High School where she has received the Most Likely to Succeed Award and has been recognized on the honor roll. She is involved in the social club, basketball and track & field. Kuanyah has been a Club member for three years and is the vice president of the Keystone Club. She is also a member of Career Launch, diplomas2Degrees, Money Matters among many other Club programs. Kuanyah's community service initiatives include participating in MLK Day of Service and the base's Children's Christmas Party. She hopes to attend Stanford University or Spellman College to study journalism/media studies.

Career Interest: News Anchor

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**Victor O. – Age 14**



**McGuire Youth Center**

*"I know who I am and I know who I want to be, thanks to the McGuire Youth Programs."*

Victor is an eighth grade student at Helen Fort Middle School where he serves as a mentor at the child development center. He has been on the honor roll since the third grade and has received PARCC Achievement Awards. Victor has been a Club member for six years. He has held the position of president for the Torch Club and is currently the vice president of the Keystone Club as well as an active member of Passport to Manhood. During his Torch Club presidency, Victor's community service activities included volunteering at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and Burlington County Animal Shelter. Victor would like to go to Princeton University to study law.

Career Interest: Corporate Law