



EXCEPTIONAL TEEN NAMED *NEW JERSEY* YOUTH OF THE YEAR BY BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA

Fradely Delacruz set to receive college scholarship and vie for regional title this summer

Clifton, New Jersey, June 13, 2018 – Selected among 19 outstanding youth, Fradely has been named the New Jersey Youth of the Year by Boys & Girls Clubs of America. The Youth of the Year title is a prestigious honor bestowed upon an exemplary young person in recognition of leadership, service, academic excellence and dedication to live a healthy lifestyle. Now in its 71st year, the Youth of the Year program honors our nation’s most awe-inspiring young people on their path to great futures and encourages all kids to lead, succeed and inspire. As the New Jersey Youth of the Year, Fradely will serve as an ambassador for all teens in the state. She will receive a \$15,000 college scholarship - \$10,000 from Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey, and \$5,000 from Boys & Girls Clubs of America, and will go on to vie for the regional Youth of the Year and ultimately the national title.

Fradely is a Senior at Vineland High School where she has been on the Honor Roll for the past four years. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Secretary of her class, President of the Health Occupations of Students in America (H.O.S.A) club, Lead Chemist of the Wizardry Chemist Club and received her varsity letter for managing Track & Field. She was awarded regional and state medals in H.O.S.A medical competitions and is Miss Monogram. Fradely has been a Club member for three years, and is the Secretary of the Keystone Club. Her community service activities include work with Adopt the Shelter, Dane Barse Family Fun Day and the Ceceilyn Miller Institute for Leadership and Diversity in America. She plans on attending Monmouth University and major in Biology. Her career interest is Medical Science.

“Fradely and all Youth of the Year nominees are living proof that Boys & Girls Clubs across the country are inspiring and enabling young people to achieve great futures,” said Jim Clark, president and CEO, BGCA. “Being named Youth of the Year is a lifelong honor. As the New Jersey Youth of the Year, Fradely will serve as a spokesperson for our young people, sharing her inspiring story and leading the way to transform communities for the better.”

Boys & Girls Clubs of America’s National Youth of the Year recognition program is presented by Disney, who has supported the youth advocacy organization 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, the 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.

This month, Fradely will join other state winners to vie for the Northeast regional title. If named the regional winner, she will be awarded an additional \$10,000 college scholarship, renewable for four years up to \$40,000. Six youth, including five regional winners and a military youth winner, will advance to Washington, D.C. in September 2018, to compete for the title of Boys & Girls Clubs of America's National Youth of the Year. The National Youth of the Year will receive an additional scholarship of \$25,000, renewable for four years up to \$100,000.

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

About Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey

Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey is an alliance of 22 Boys & Girls Club organizations serving over 70,000 youth ages 5-18 throughout the Garden State. Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey is a collaborative effort representing all 22 Clubs with the purpose of building local Club capacity; raising public awareness; and securing resources and financial support to increase the impact and reach of local Clubs. Learn more at www.bgcnj.org

About Boys & Girls Clubs of America

For more than 150 years, Boys & Girls Clubs of America (<http://www.bgca.org>) has enabled young people most in need to achieve great futures as productive, caring, responsible citizens. Today, 4,300 Clubs serve 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 [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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