



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ADVISORY

2010 Youth of the Year Competition

Boys & Girls Clubs of King County teens share their stories, their goals and their contributions to community.

SEATTLE, WA – Tuesday, February 9th, 11 King County teens will compete at Boys & Girls Clubs of King County's 2010 Youth of the Year Luncheon. The teen honorees were chosen by their Clubs for their dedication to service, academic commitment, strength of character and future goals. Many of these youth have overcome major obstacles in their lives, making their success all the more amazing. Some have endured drug addicted family members, homelessness, foster homes and violent neighborhoods. This extraordinary event will take place at Benaroya Hall (200 University St., Seattle 98101) from noon to 1:30pm, doors open at 11:30am. Each teen will tell their story before a panel of distinguished judges and a crowd of 350 people.

The Youth of the Year program is the premier youth recognition program of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. It promotes and celebrates Club members' service to Club, community and family values, academic performance, strength of character, life goals, poise and public speaking ability. This year's judges are: Adam Cornell, Federal Prosecuting Attorney and former Boys & Girls Clubs of America National Youth of the Year; Karen Bryant, CEO for the Seattle Storm; John Meisenbach, CEO at Meisenbach Capital Management; Sandy McCullough, Principal at Pacific Public Affairs; Randy Both, Microsoft; Dave Musselwhite, Princess Cruises; Debbie Lemman, North Coast Electric Co.; and Stephanie Sarkisian, Youth Advocate.

Each of the 11 teens in this event is awarded a \$500 education scholarship. The youth selected Boys & Girls Clubs of King County Youth of the Year is awarded a \$2,500 education scholarship and advances to the state level of the competition. From there the winner at the state level will go on to the regional competition and then, potentially on to nationals. The national winner will be installed in the fall in an Oval Office ceremony with President Obama.

The 2010 Youth of the Year candidates are: Taylor Franks, Ballard Boys & Girls Club; Jovon Wayne, EX3 Ron Sandwith Teen Center; Sadia Anees, Kirkland Boys & Girls Club; Alexia Syrmos, Mercer Island Boys & Girls Club; Amaris Williams, North Seattle Boys & Girls Club; Arturro Jordan, Rainier Vista Boys & Girls Club; Madeline Tobe, Redmond/Sammamish Boys & Girls Club; Seth Jinka-Hagemeister, Renton/Skyway Boys & Girls Club; Okoye Berry, Rotary Boys & Girls Club; Lisa Upham, Southwest Boys & Girls Club; and Jazmin Velazquez, Wallingford Boys & Girls Club.

Reservations are required to attend the event but special arrangements will be made for members of the press. Contact Rachel Doxtater at the numbers listed above to make arrangements to attend.

Microsoft is the presenting sponsor of this event. Additional sponsors Regence, Princess Cruises, North Coast Electric Co., Frause, McKinstry, Lionfish, Titan, Dex, Macy's, Northwest Sports Photography and Northwest Trophy.

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About Boys & Girls Clubs of King County

Boys & Girls Clubs of King County exists to inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens. With 13 full-service Clubs and 29 before- and after-school program sites, the organization is one of the largest of its kind in the nation, serving 17,000 members annually. Program areas offered to youth include character and leadership development, education and career development, health and life skills, the arts, computer training and sports/fitness/recreation opportunities. For more information, visit www.positiveplace.org.

Comment [b1]: Are they just 'Frause' not "the Frause Group" or anything? I know Mary asked, but I haven't heard back. I can update you if I hear differently.