



OUTSTANDING BUFFALO TEEN TO COMPETE FOR BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA'S STATE YOUTH OF THE YEAR HONOR

Buffalo, NY May 8,2009– Janiece Artis is a true example of an extraordinary young woman. At age 16, she has just been selected to compete against other Boys & Girls Club members for the New York State Youth of the Year title and a \$1,000 scholarship from the Reader's Digest Foundation. As the Youth of the Year for Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo, Janiece is among hundreds of local youth 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 Reader's Digest.

Janiece has been a member of the Masten Clubhouse for 5 years and has always been a leader among her peers. She started out as a quiet young lady but quickly turned on the role of a leader in club programming. Janiece took on the difficult challenge of having to gain the respect and trust of kids her own age and older to be able to help them develop strong character and decision making skills.

"Janiece is an outstanding young lady. She represents everything that Boys & Girls Clubs stands for and I know she will continue to do great things beyond her time as Youth of the Year," said Diane L. Rowe, chief professional officer, Boys & Girls Club of Buffalo.

If Janiece wins at the state competition, she will compete for the title of Northeast Region Youth of the Year and an additional \$10,000 scholarship. The five regional winners will advance to Washington, D.C., in September 2009 to compete for the title of BGCA's National Youth of the Year. The National Youth of the Year receives an additional \$15,000 college scholarship and is installed by the President in an Oval Office ceremony.

William C. Baird Award Winner J.C. Huizenga

Outstanding commitment to the youth of Western New York; Extraordinary character and leadership; Dedicated to ensuring the youth in our communities succeed. These are the characteristics that describe the few people who are distinguished enough to receive Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo's highest honor, the William C. Baird Service to Youth Award. We are pleased to announce the recipient of our 2009 William C. Baird Service to Youth Award, Mr. JC Huizenga, Chairman of National Heritage Academies

J.C. Huizenga is an entrepreneur, education reformer and business leader. He is chairman of Westwater Group, an investment company, and the founder of Huizenga Group, which operates six diverse manufacturing companies and a commercial contracting firm.

Mr. Huizenga earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Hope College in Holland, Michigan and his MBA from Michigan State University.

In 1995, Mr. Huizenga began, and presently chairs, National Heritage Academies, now serving nearly 36,000 students in 57 schools across six states. National Heritage was founded out of Mr. Huizenga's conviction that every child deserves the opportunity to achieve their dreams.

Mr. Huizenga's interest in reforming education at a national level lead to his current service as chair of the National Council of Education Providers. He also serves as a board member of the Education Industry Association.

In Michigan, Mr. Huizenga is known for his active volunteer leadership and philanthropy, serving on boards such as the Seidman Business School advisory board, the Grand Valley State University Foundation board, the Salvation Army Divisional Advisory board, and the Acton Institute board of directors.

Mr. Huizenga has been recognized for his accomplishments in school reform and business leadership. He and his wife, Laurie, live in East Grand Rapids and have one son, David.

Community Service Award Given to Town of Amherst

For many years, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo has been providing quality programming in the Town of Amherst, the only thing missing was a permanent home for our Clubhouse. Over the years we have served our youth in many different places, including churches and Damean College. This year, thanks to the help of the Town of Amherst we were finally able to provide our members with a safe place to learn and grow, the Eggertsville Youth & Community Center Boys & Girls Club.

The new facility is better than we could have ever imagined including a brand new gym, computer lab, art room, and a TV area to give our members a safe place to relax and be themselves.

The support we received from the Town of Amherst is immeasurable and without them this facility would not have been possible. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo is proud to recognize the Town of Amherst with the community service award in honor of their support and dedication to the mission of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo.

Special Recognition for Kitchen Sponsors

Years ago Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo (BGCB) recognized a basic need that our members were lacking; a hot, nutritious meal. Recognizing the challenges our children and families face, BGCB, Second Harvest, and the Food Bank of WNY partnered together to create the Kids Café Program. Through the years the Kids Café program grew, and the need for the children in the city of Buffalo became more and more apparent.

Families of BGCB members were struggling, some parents could not afford the food to feed their children, some were working multiple jobs just to keep food on the table and had no time to be with their children. In both situations, it was our children that suffered.

BGCB needed to find a solution, so we decided to better our food program to serve more kids in more places. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo made the decision to build a commercial kitchen to prepare food for members of all of our clubs across Buffalo, Cheektowaga, and Amherst.

This dream began years ago with detailed planning and careful consideration of all the parts it would take to bring this kitchen to reality. Beyond the space and the equipment was something more important we were in need of - support.

We found our support in the hearts of many generous donors, foundations, and even from those outside of Buffalo that heard our story and wanted to help. Thanks to those generous people, this past year we were able to open a commercial kitchen where everyday dedicated staff come in and prepare meals to serve to the many members that walk in our doors.

This project was many years in the making and it wasn't without its challenges. However with the generous support of many we were able to make the kitchen project happen. On behalf of Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo, our members, and their families, we would like to thank those that offered their support, you will always be a special part of the Boys& Girls Clubs of Buffalo family.

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