

The Positive Place For Kids



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF BUFFALO**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Danielle N. Judge-Johnson, Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo, (716) 825-1016 ext. 221, djudge@bgcbuffalo.org

**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.

About Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo

Our Mission is to provide appropriate and diversified programs and activities that serve to attract and hold area youth to the Clubhouse. We provide environments that teach children the skills needed to build positive lives, attitudes, and behaviors. Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo has been an integral part of Western New York for over 80 years. Its 16 locations provide services to over 9,000 boys and girls, ages 6-18, in the key areas of Character & Leadership, Education & Career Development, Health & Life-skills, The Arts and Sports, Fitness & Recreation.

###