(Carlsbad, CA – February 16, 2017) Everyone knows Zach Munitz and Sarah Vidaurri are winners. Now it’s official! The two young people were selected as Boys & Girls Clubs of Carlsbad’s Youth of the Year Winner and Runner-Up, respectively.

The Youth of the Year program recognizes superior leadership skills, academic achievement, obstacles overcome, and outstanding service to Boys & Girls Clubs and the community. Thanks to the generosity of Julie and Matt Harelson and Keith Blackburn, Zach will receive a $10,000 college scholarship, and Sarah will receive $1,500 for higher education purposes.

Zach was introduced to the Club when he was ordered to do volunteer work by the Juvenile Justice Program. At just 13 years old, Zach says “he was an isolated kid with no moral compass headed down a risky path.” Zach credits his experience at the Boys & Girls Club for whom he has become today. “I was given opportunities to grow and become a leader; they saw my potential. The Club had faith in me when nobody else did.”

Well deserving of this prestigious award, Zach is a senior at Sage Creek High School where he has been a member of the Superintendent Student Advisory Council, Vice President of the Aspiring Future Leaders of America Club, and has challenged himself by taking AP classes to prepare for college. He also plays varsity soccer and tennis, and would like to start a program called “We Speak Wednesday,” encouraging other youth to unplug and form meaningful relationships with one another.

“We are so proud of what Zach has accomplished,” said Teen Program Director Katie Skarwecki. He is more than deserving of this award. Zach is a natural-born leader who demonstrates compassion and maturity in everything he does, inspiring those around him to emulate his traits. He’s the type of person that makes everyone smile and every day better.”

The mission of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Carlsbad is to provide activities and experiences that enrich the lives of young people, inspiring and enabling them to reach their full potential.
Zach will go on to compete for the San Diego County Youth of the Year. He, along with Runner Up Sarah, will be honored at the Club’s Super Star Recognition Dinner to be held in May. “I am immensely grateful for this opportunity and hope that I can be an example and a role model to members everywhere,” stated Zach.