BGC Newport honors outstanding community members!

Newport, RI: The Boys & Girls Club of Newport County’s 3rd Annual Growing Together Awards Event was held on Saturday, March 23rd at OceanCliff! Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Present and Building Great Futures, The Club paid tribute to generous friends who have supported the Boys & Girls Club for many years and also introduced the 2 Youth of the Year candidates. The following is the list of award winners

Kiara N. – 2019 Youth of the Year and Damon M. – Youth of the Year runner-up
Ray Gomes - Volunteer of the Year Award
Chris and Denise Patsos – David P. Leys Memorial Award
Florence G. Archambault – Lifetime Achievement Award
David Galvin – Outstanding Service Award
BankNewport – Outstanding Corporation Award
Trustees of Long Wharf – Community Excellence Award
Pauline Moye – Spirit of Youth Award
Kenneth “Buzzy” Riley – Distinguished Alumni Award

Executive Director and CEO of The Club, Joseph Pratt kicked off the awards by announcing the Youth of the Year winner, the Club’s most prestigious honor bestowed upon a young person. The award is given out annually to an individual who exemplifies the Club’s mission and is proof of the impact that Clubs make in transforming kids’ lives. Two candidates; Kiara N. and Damon M. vied for this year’s honor. Prior to the event, the nominees submitted a rigorous and lengthy application, along with interviewing with this year’s judges who included: Boys & Girls Club Board Member Lorrie Taylor Burns, Boys & Girls Club staff and former R.I. Youth of the Year: Ryan Gomes and Volunteer Dave Van Ness. The winner, Kiara Noka, was presented with a college scholarship: the Gordon “Gordy” Johnson Memorial Scholarship in the amount of $1,000 made possible by Judith Rosenthal. Kiara will move onto the state competition where she will compete against other Boys & Girls Club Members throughout Rhode Island for additional scholarship support and represent the state in the regional competition.

The Club is also grateful to event sponsors: Ginny and Jim Purviance; “Friend of the Club Sponsors”: Gustave White Sotheby’s International Realty & Newport Lobster Company; and “Media Sponsors”: Whats Up Newp

Proceeds from this year’s Gala will be allocated to the Club’s community-based programs in the crucial areas of academic success, character and citizenship development, and healthy lifestyles.

The mission of the Boys & Girls Club of Newport County is to inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need help most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens. For more than 60 years, the Boys & Girls Club has provided quality programs and outreach services in the critical areas of academic success, healthy lifestyles, and character & leadership development to help put all kids on a path to a great future. The Club is part of a nationwide movement of more than 4,000 Boys & Girls Clubs, and provides services to more than 6000 youth annually.

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