



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:**

Rachel Doxtater

Office: 206-436-1818

Cell: 206-478-6170

[rdoxtater@positiveplace.org](mailto:rdoxtater@positiveplace.org)

## **ADVISORY**

### **2009 Youth of the Year Competition**

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

**SEATTLE, WA** – Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 11 King County teens will compete at Boys & Girls Clubs of King County's 2009 Youth of the Year Luncheon. The teen honorees were chosen by their Clubs for their dedication to service, academic commitment, strength of character and life goals. Many of these kids 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. The inspirational event will take place at Benaroya Hall (200 University St., Seattle 98101) from noon to 2:00pm, 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; Charlie Ball, Princess Cruises; Kimberly Mitchell, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; Jennifer Rudy, Microsoft; Delena Sunday, Nordstrom; Pete Lemman, North Coast Electric; Mack Hogans and Patty Voelker.

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 2009 Youth of the Year candidates are: Peter Zajac, Mercer Island Boys & Girls Club; Krista Nelson, Ballard Boys & Girls Club; LeSabre Canady, North Seattle Boys & Girls Club; Kaitlin Charles, Southwest Boys & Girls Club; Sarah Agan, Wallingford Boys & Girls Club; Okoye Berry, Rotary Boys & Girls Club; Anna Peskin, Kirkland Boys & Girls Club; Dimitri Woods, Renton/Skyway Boys & Girls Club; Summer Dixon, Redmond/Sammamish Boys & Girls Club; Alexa Hartman, Federal Way 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 include Regence, Macy's, Princess Cruises, Cushman & Wakefield, Frause, and McKinstry.

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#### **About the Boys & Girls Clubs of King County**

The 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 14 full-service Clubs and 25 before- and after-school program sites, the organization is one of the largest of its kind in the nation, serving nearly 18,000 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](http://www.positiveplace.org).