



Helping Kids. Building Communities.



CLUB MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT

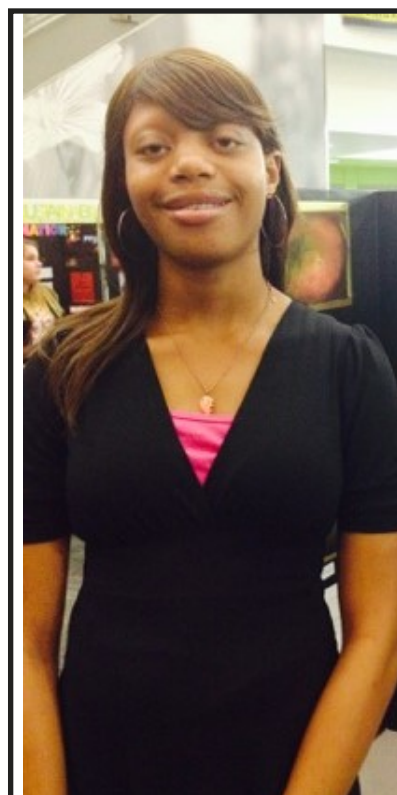
Breanna Ray, age 18.

This month, the Broncos Boys & Girls Club is happy to feature a long time member, Breanna Ray. Breana is one of 14 youth who participated in this year's Youth of the Year program. Below is an excerpt from her Youth of the Year essay:

"Altogether, I've been at the Club for at least twelve years. Throughout the years there was a lot of inconsistency in coming to the Club, but I've always been a member. For a while I stopped coming to the Club because I had gotten sick and it caused me to become behind in school. However, I got back on track and within the last year have been able to come back...

Now that I'm back, I am more involved than ever. I am now a co-president of the Keystone Club. Through the Keystone Club, I am doing a lot of volunteering. For example, within the last twelve months I have done a Recycling Carnival, the Race Against Violence, a Kick-Off Breakfast, and a Lights On After School Family Night. I have also gotten to go to two State and one National Keystone Conference. I got to help at a Steps to Success Positive Recognition Dinner, which is a ceremony to recognize the positive things youth of Far Northeast Denver have done. I have also joined the Steps to Success Youth Advisory Board. This is a board of youth that allows other youth to earn grants for programs that help the youth of Far Northeast Denver. These are just some of the opportunities that I have received from being involved at the Club.

With being involved this much, this has helped me develop leadership, academic, and personal skills that I carry with me every day. Through Keystone, I have gained leadership skills. Such as, learning to communicate, being able to talk to other people with confidence and even putting together and running events. I have also gained personal skills. For example, finding jobs, keeping me focused on my career path, and when I reach my goal, learning how to celebrate it and keep going. Finally, being at the Club I've gained academic skills. This includes, being pushed or having help with doing homework, learning to help others with homework, and creating and reaching certain goals."





BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

DENVER BRONCOS

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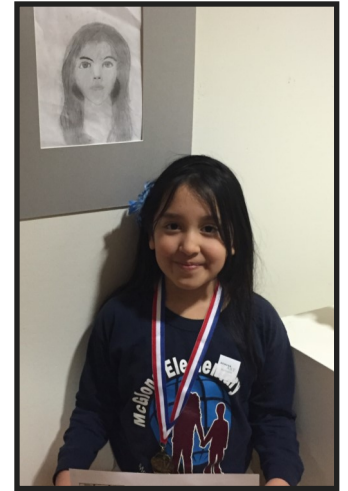
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PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

Regional Fine Arts Winners!

Every year members turn in their best art pieces from the year to compete in the National Fine Arts Contest. This year we had two regional winners and one honorable mention. Jasmine Sanchez, age 7, won for her piece *The Girl*, pictured to the right. Seairra Hughes, age 12, and Felix Vargas, age 18, were among the winners from our Club as well. Every year winners and their family and friends get to spend an evening at the Denver Art Museum for a reception and then head to the exhibit to see their art work on display in the museum.



Thank You to the Broncos!

This year the Broncos have showered our members with generosity without compare. This year Coach Kubiak gave 100 kids free bikes and helmets, Broncos players participated in Shop with a Bronco shopping spree and the annual Thunder Christmas Party served more than 300 kids. Another special thanks to the Cheerleaders, David Bruton Jr. and Derrek Wolf for adopting families in need and taking them on a shopping spree!



Cherish and Boys Club Shopping Spree!

Funded by the OJP grant, the Cherish girls mentoring program, and Boys club earned a shopping spree for the members who reached their reading goal. To be qualified for the shopping spree each member had to reach 100% of their individualized reading goal.

More than 30 young kids went shopping at Walmart or Sports Authority. Thank you to Walmart and Sports Authority for their continued support!





BUILDING GREAT FUTURES

CLUB MEMBER'S VISIONS FOR AMERICA'S YOUTH

Shamika Anderson, Age 17



Boys & Girls Clubs are community outlets for young people who want to escape the troubles in their home lives. Whether it is violence, school troubles, issues with friends or family problems. The Club helps to give a sense of relief from these hardships in life and provide a vision to have a better future.

In my vision, America's youth would break chains of stereotypes and backgrounds. Many young people, including myself, either get put down because of their skin color or because of their economic level. This gives young people a mindset that they can't get past high school. People seem to think that since one's parents haven't graduated, then they won't either. This is where the Boys & Girls Club comes in. The support of role models from our community is a prime example of how young people can see that there is a way of breaking stereotypes based on community. Young people need a shoulder to lean on and the extracurricular activities at the Boys & Girls Club can provide that support.

America's youth should be prepared in all aspects.... I would have workshops that would help them grow strong in areas that their school might miss. The challenge would be getting the young people to stay dedicated. This is where mentors would come in. The mentors would be the support for each individual student. This will lead generations to be successful for generations to come. Engaging the community will have a ripple effect that will spread throughout the country.

Eve Briones, Age 15

The first way, I can change my community is to encourage the word that cyberbullying isn't okay. Social media is a big part of my community and generation... I notice that this effects my generation greatly because people think it is okay to discourage other people. I feel like we need to come together as teenagers of my community and world to encourage instead of discourage. When a group of people come together its makes it easier to go through rough times because you are stronger as one. For example when a girl in my community committed suicide because of bullying and cyberbullying, a lot of people were very heartbroken. As a community people came together for a candle lighting for her. This is a great example of a community coming together. But we shouldn't just come together because something bad happens. We should always be one because when things do happen, people will be better supported.

A second way, I can change my community is by changing the stereotype of my community... Some people see Montbello as "ghetto" or "unsafe". That's not the case for my community. I've grown up in Montbello almost all of my life... Especially since I am a part of the Boys & Girls Club, I see the positive side of Montbello, that not every else does. A step to making the stereotypes of my community disappear is making more programs like the Boys & Girls Club. This will help people realize that the community is not all people say it is. Also a better oriented Rec Center would also help the community by making more activities available other than just playing basketball. I can make the community safer by making gang violence not appealing to the younger generation. Teens can make a big impact on younger kids' lives by providing a positive role model. All of these things will collectively make Montbello a community we can be proud of and other people will see our community. Therefore the stereotype of Montbello being "ghetto" and "unsafe" will be lifted.





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SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to the continued support of Pam and Charlie Leder of the Broncos Boys & Girls Club. For the past 10 years Pam and Charlie have volunteered their time to help with the Youth of the Year Program. This year we had 15 youth complete the program with their help!



GET INVOLVED

Reading Program Help Wanted!

The Education Room is seeking Volunteers to come and help with the Reading Program. Volunteers will help students read books and prepare to take STAR Reading tests.

Handy With Crafts?

The Art Room is seeking many volunteers to help members create their best Easter Hat possible. Come help them create with Paper Mache, clay and anything recycled.



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SPECIAL EVENTS

Chinese New Year & Family Night

February 10 @ 6pm

Black History Celebration & Family Night

February 24th @ 6pm

Dr. Suess Day

March 2nd

Youth of the Year Dinner March 3rd

March 2nd @ 6pm

Easter Hat Parade

March 25th 6:30pm

Broncos Boys & Girls Club

Come see the participants show off their stuff at the annual Easter Hat Parade. Each participant will model their Easter hat they made from scratch and compete against other Clubs for best hat!

