



# PRESS RELEASE

## **Great Futures Start Here: Exceptional Tampa Teen Wins Youth of the Year Honor for Boys & Girls Clubs of Tampa Bay**

**Tampa FL, February 14, 2013:** Selected among several outstanding youth, Cory Poole, was announced as the Tampa Bay Youth of the Year, earning a \$1,000 college scholarship from Tupperware Brands Corporation. As the new Youth of the Year for Boys & Girls Clubs of Tampa Bay, 17-year-old Cory is a true example of an extraordinary young man recognized by Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) for his 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. As BGCA's premier youth recognition program, Youth of the Year recognizes outstanding contributions to a Member's family, school, community and Boys & Girls club, as well as overcoming personal challenges and obstacles. Youth of the Year encourages Club Members to reach their full potential by achieving academic success, leading healthy lifestyles and contributing to their communities. Youth of the Year honorees are shining examples and living proof that great futures start at Boys & Girls Clubs.

"Cory is the epitome of what we strive to achieve with every young person that walks through our doors," said Chris Letsos, Vice President of Operations for Boys & Girls Clubs of Tampa Bay. "He has grown up in the Club and his transformation into a responsible and civic-minded young adult is a true testament to the impact we are having on his, and other Club Members, lives."

Cory is no stranger to overcoming hurdles in his personal life. As the second youngest of five, he was raised by both his mother and father. Among living in poverty, he and his family spent a lot of time moving to neighborhoods plagued with violence, drugs, and delinquency. Cory believed that he was bound to become a product of his environment until he found the Zonta Boys & Girl Club.

As a member of the Zonta Club, Cory has learned the meaning of an extended family and has discovered a support system within the staff there. He has attended regularly for the past five years, participating in various programs that the Club offers, such as the Keystone Club, a teen group

dedicated to leadership and community service. Now a senior at Chamberlain High School, Cory maintains an average GPA of 3.2 and has plans to join the Marines upon graduation.

If Cory wins at the State Competition on April 15<sup>th</sup>, he will compete for the title of Southeast Region Youth of the Year and earn an additional \$10,000 scholarship from Tupperware Brands, the programs national sponsor. Five regional winners will advance to Washington, DC in September 2013, to compete for the title of BGCA's National Youth of the Year. The National Youth of the Year will receive an additional scholarship of up to \$50,000 from The Rick and Susan Goings Foundation and will have the opportunity to meet with the President of the United States in the White House.

### **About Boys & Girls Clubs of Tampa Bay**

Boys & Girls Clubs of Tampa Bay has been a positive force in the community for 85 years; enabling young people to become productive, responsible and caring citizens through structured programming, safe learning environments and dedicated staff. With a focus on three core priority outcomes – Academic Success, Healthy Lifestyles, and Improving Character & Leadership, Boys & Girls Clubs of Tampa Bay provides opportunities to build new skills that raise each Club Member's belief that he or she can succeed and receive recognition for personal, social and academic accomplishments.

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