



PRESS RELEASE

Plant City Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year Announced

Plant City FL, February 19, 2013: Selected among several outstanding youth, Reginald Coffee, was announced as the Plant City Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year. Reginald, a sophomore at Plant City High School competed with his peers and has been recognized 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.

"As a sophomore, Reginald was ineligible to win Youth of the Year for Boys & Girls Clubs of Tampa Bay but his eagerness and dedication to prove himself as an exceptional candidate is exactly what we strive for with this program," said Jennifer Hayes, Director of Program Services for Boys & Girls Clubs of Tampa Bay. "He will have the opportunity to compete again as a senior and potentially move on to the State, Regional and National Competitions."

Reginald discovered the Plant City Boys & Girls Club four years ago and has been a positive asset to the Club ever since. Growing up, he was introverted and often anti-social but being in the Club has encouraged him to be a role-model to the younger Members.

"I found myself walking through the doors of the Club, hoping to meet kids my age; instead, I was ambushed by a bunch of youth full of excitement and curiosity," said Reginald. "The attention forced me to change my mind set about being isolated. It forced me to interact with all of the kids and reflect good leadership skills."

Reginald has plans to attend Bethune Cookman University and study Criminology. The 16-year-old currently maintains a 3.2 GPA and is involved in various programs at the Plant City Club, such as Keystone, a teen leadership program, and various athletic leagues.

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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