



Gabrielle Strother, Fauver-Martin Club, 3rd Place Finalist (tied) - When she became a member at age 7, the Club is where Gabrielle met her first friends and learned to socialize with others. Gabrielle is praised by staff, coaches, and teachers as a "pleasure" to be around and someone that doesn't let challenges deter her.

Elizabeth Ann Tinker, Bloomer-Munger Club - "My Club has given me many opportunities to be myself, gain more responsibility, raise my self-esteem and become more disciplined." While at her Club, Elizabeth has focused on academics. As someone whom other members look up to, she has been able to assist younger members with their school work.



Youth of the Year 2017

Roy Ridgle, Lloyd H. Diehl Club, Winner - Roy has been a Club member since 2010 and credits the Club with helping him to develop strong character, sportsmanship, confidence, discipline, and achieve academic success in advanced placement classes. According to Roy, staff at the Diehl Club encouraged him and gave him a chance to feel special, to beat the odds and conquer his problems. "I think the Boys & Girls Club staff is perfect for a child just like me. Children who want someone to say they have their back. Staff takes children under their wing and will treat you as if you were their child."

Alexandria Ragland, Richard & Patricia Donahey Club, Runner-up - As a member of Boys & Girls Clubs since 2009, Alexandria praises her Club for shaping her into the confident, intelligent young woman she is today. Alexandria mentors the younger kids at the Club, plays volleyball at her high school, and focuses on academics. She will be attending Michigan State University in the fall for Nursing.



Marcus Hufnagel, Matilda R. Wilson Club, 3rd Place Finalist (tied) - As an athlete, Marcus initially came to the Club to stay active over the summer. "Nine years ago I found my Club an active place to be. After these nine years, I have found the Club to be the most supportive and honest place to be." Marcus aspires to play college football and pursue a culinary arts degree.



Richard Quintana-Vega, Huron Valley Club - According to Richard, "Club staff has shown me exponential love and support." Richard is a frequent volunteer and assists with events at his Club. He created a Cinco de Mayo celebration at his Club, where Richard talked about his heritage and shared foods from Mexico with other members.

Janee' Nesmith, Romulus Club - Janee' credits a patient tutor at her Club for developing her love of math. Because of that, her current high school course load is filled with honors courses. The Boys & Girls Clubs have shaped her life "more than she ever realized they could!"



Alex Ciavone, Vic & Lucille Wertz Club - Alex is the president of the Keystone Club, and thanks the Boys & Girls Clubs for turning him into the person he is today by providing service opportunities within the community.



Nina Estelle Williams, Dick & Sandy Dauch Campus - "School can be very complicated and overwhelming at times. With a place like the Boys & Girls Clubs there's no need to stress." Nina credits her Club for helping her maintain a high GPA throughout her academic career.



Robert Buthia III, James & Lynelle Holden Club - Robert credits the Club as the place where he turned his life around. Robert is a role model for the younger members and is looked up to as a "big brother"; which motivates him to continue to make the best choices. In the future, Robert plans on enlisting in the US Army to serve his country.

