

About the Youth of the Year

Every year Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan selects an outstanding young person to receive the Youth of the Year Award, which is the highest honor bestowed upon a Club member. The award recognizes an individual's high character, commitment to academic success, desire to live a healthy lifestyle, and outstanding service to their Club and community.

Our 2018 Youth of the Year, Marcus Hufnagel, will now advance to the statewide competition where the Youth of the Year finalists from all of the Michigan Boys & Girls Clubs compete for the opportunity to represent the state at Boys & Girls Clubs of America's Midwest Regional competition.

Five regional finalists from throughout the nation are then selected to compete for the title of National Youth of the Year in Washington, D.C. The national winner goes on to be recognized by the President of the United States in a ceremony that dates back to 1947.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan offers after-school and summer programs to those young people who need us most between the ages 6-18. The children and teens we serve depend on your support and generosity to insure they have a safe, supervised and educational haven when they might otherwise be left alone, afraid and at risk.



Visit www.bgcsm.org to donate.

Locations

Bloomer-Munger Club
Munger Pre-K – 8 School
5525 Martin Street
Detroit, MI 48210
313-894-3320

Dick & Sandy Dauch Campus
NFL/YET Boys & Girls Club
16500 Tireman Street
Detroit, MI 48228
313-523-4540

Lloyd H. Diehl Club
4242 Collingwood Avenue
Detroit, MI 48204
313-931-7190

Richard & Patricia Donahey Club
Edgemont Elementary
125 S. Edgemont Street
Belleville, MI 48111
734-697-8863

Fauver-Martin Club
24 Ferris Avenue
Highland Park, MI 48203
313-868-8450

James & Lynelle Holden Club
20100 Schoenherr Road
Detroit, MI 48205
313-372-9550

Huron Valley Club
Chapelle Elementary School
111 S. Wallace
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
734-481-0266

Romulus Club
Wick Elementary
36900 Wick Road
Romulus, MI 48174
734-641-3382

Vic & Lucille Wertz Club
14975 21 Mile Road
Shelby Township, MI 48315
586-566-5516

Matilda R. Wilson Club
220 S. Squirrel Road
Auburn Hills, MI 48326
248-852-1336

Administrative Office
26777 Halsted Road, Suite 100
Farmington Hills, MI 48331
248-473-1400 / info@bgcsm.org

Front Cover Photo - All finalists with YOY judges:
Nancy McLernon Brown;
Honorable Robert Heimbuch;
Board Member, Jeff Henning;
Chair of the Board, Hiram Jackson;
Hervey Jenkins, Staff



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN

Youth of the
Year
2018



Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan is a youth development organization providing a positive environment that enables its members to become responsible, self-reliant, caring adults.

GREAT FUTURES START [HERE.](#)

Scholarships are made possible by:

- Michael & Nancy McLernon Brown Youth of the Year Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Nicholas A. Showich Character & Leadership Scholarship Fund
- Somerset-Dexter Family Scholarship Fund



**Second Runner-Up (Tie):
Janee' Nesmith,
Romulus Club**

During her 10-plus years at the Club, Nesmith made friends, became more outgoing and more confident in class – with math going from a weak spot to a favorite subject. She says the Club “shaped my life more than I could ever have imagined.”

**Anissa Carrion-Lugo,
Bloomer-Munger Club**

Carrion-Lugo overcame personal struggles thanks to staff who let her know she “wasn’t going to walk alone.” Thanks to that guidance she now helps younger members to make sure they all know that being yourself is important no matter what happens.



**Maurice Gordon, Jr.,
James & Lynelle Holden Club**

Gordon, Jr. says his first day at the Club “was one of the best days of my life,” adding it was the first time he had fun in his own neighborhood. At the Club he has formed many strong friendships and he thanks his staff mentors for always being there for him.



**Briana Tipton,
Lloyd H. Diehl Club**

Thanks to her Club staff, Tipton, who was often quiet, blossomed and has become a Club leader. She found a passion for giving back by helping younger members struggling with their homework and by preparing backpacks full of food for members in need to take home.



**Second Runner-Up (Tie):
Myles Parks,
Dick & Sandy Dauch Campus**

Parks, who loves basketball, said the Club “positively impacted my life by teaching me life lessons every day.” Whether on the court or in life he says the Club taught him to respect others, to be on-time for work and that “taking care of business before enjoying pleasure” matters. Both staff and his peers describe him as a leader and hard-worker.



**Jalen Muldrow,
Richard & Patricia
Donahey Club**

A nine-year Club member, Muldrow says the Club taught him to “let your voice be heard,” as “only then will you have the power to stand up for what is right.” He uses his voice largely in school student government, urging others to find their courage so that their views can be part of the debate.



*Youth of the Year 2018:
Marcus Hufnagel,
Matilda R. Wilson Club*

Hufnagel has been a Matilda R. Wilson Club member since he was eight years old. This year will be the second time he has been named the Wilson Club’s Youth of the Year and the first year he will represent all of the BGCSM in the statewide competition. He credits the Club for the friendships he has made, the work experience the Club provided and the staff support he received to build his self-confidence. Without the Club experience, he says he would not be as outgoing and hard-working as he is today. He plans to pursue a career in culinary arts & hospitality once he graduates from high school in 2019.

**First Runner Up:
Gabrielle Strother,
Fauver-Martin Club**

Strother joined the Fauver-Martin Club at age seven to “meet new people even though I was shy.” The Club staff treated her like family allowing her to move out of her comfort zone. She credits the Club for helping her grow personally and professionally thanks to life-changing activities and opportunities.



**Angela Perez,
Huron Valley Club**

Perez came to the Club in 2013, and “the minute I walked in, I felt at home.” Staff became go-to counselors when she needed to vent, along with providing her first job helping serve younger members -- and making sure they all know that “respecting everyone gets you respect back.”



**Evan Zack,
Vic & Lucille Wertz Club**

For Zach, “the Club has been my salvation.” It was a place where he was mentored, aided on school work and built art skills for his future career. The Club provided him a place to overcome personal struggles, take leadership roles and learn that “happiness cannot be shared until you find happiness within yourself.”

