



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF THE TWIN CITIES

# JANUARY UPDATE

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## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2018 YOUTH OF THE YEAR!

**Heaven Cunningham**  
*East Side Boys & Girls Club*

*"I am happy to have another place to call home,  
and I am honored to say it is my local Boys & Girls  
Club"*



Heaven Cunningham has been a member of the East Side Boys & Girls Club for five years. In addition to the Boys & Girls Club, Heaven has been involved with Girl Scouts since 2015. Heaven has a rigorous course load in school, taking several AP classes and maintaining a 3.4 GPA. Heaven leads an active lifestyle by being involved in her school's cheerleading team as the captain, and helps to recruit members for Boys & Girls Clubs sports leagues. Heaven is dedicated to volunteering and service, and has been the VP of the Keystone Club since 2015.

**Emanuel Latimer**  
*Al Lenzmeier West Side Boys & Girls  
Club*

*"The Boys & Girls Club has set me on the path to be  
the best educated citizen I can be."*



Emanuel Latimer has been a member of the Al Lenzmeier West Side Boys & Girls Club for four years. At the Club, Emanuel is involved in many in-house sports teams, is an active member with homework help, and has completed the Teen Pathways program. Emanuel is on the accelerated track at Washington Technology Magnet school, focusing on his biomedical diploma. While maintaining a 3.5 GPA, Emanuel is also earning college credits as a junior!

**Watrack Luffy**  
*Mt. Airy Boys & Girls Club*

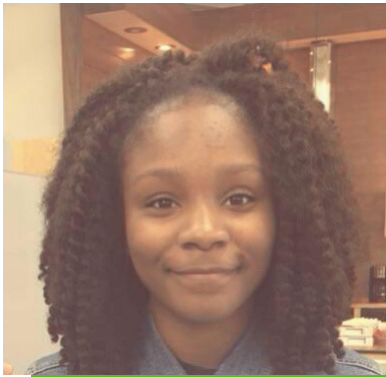
*"The Club is my second home of growth, experiences, and knowledge. I am dearly thankful for the loving staff and Club members."*



Watrack has been a member of the Mt. Airy Boys & Girls Club for seven years. Watrick started attending the Club when he was eight years old, and has participated in many Club programs including Passport to Manhood. Watrick enjoys sports and fitness, and is involved in multiple sports including basketball, football, soccer, and dodgeball. Watrick volunteers his time with youth by being involved in coaching and refereeing sports.

**Nketchi Anunike**  
*Southside Village Boys & Girls Club*

*"The Club has been a big part of my life for opening up my mind to see new opportunities and experiences"*



Nketchi has been a member of the Southside Village Boys & Girls Club for five years. During her time as a member of the Club, Nketchi has participated in Keystone Club, Teen Pathways, and has been an intern during summer programming. Nketchi is passionate about activism through the arts, and is a member of her school's social justice theater group. Nketchi's teachers say they are impressed with her sense of initiative and eagerness to share her ideas.

**Lanijah Warfield-Wright**  
*Jerry Gamble Boys & Girls Club*

*"Don't let procrastination be the answer. It will be your failure."*



Lanijah Warfield-Wright has been a member of the Jerry Gamble Boys & Girls Club for three years. Lanijah stays extremely involved in the Club, and helps out with the STARS Literacy Program and the SMART Girls program. Lanijah is the oldest of her siblings, and always tries to help those in need. She plans on studying psychology in college to help those suffering with mental illness.

## Sorena Yang

Patrick Henry Beacon Boys & Girls Club



*"The Club is my second home of growth, experiences, and knowledge. I am deeply thankful for the loving staff and Club members."*

Sorena Yang has been a member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities since she was seven years old, and has been a Club member for 11 years. Sorena has been on the honor roll all four years of high school, in addition to taking classes as a post-secondary student at Minneapolis Community & Technical College. Sorena is the president of the Asian Cultural Club, and also plays competitive badminton. Sorena is engaged in a variety of volunteer and service projects at the Club, and also commits to two days a week in the College Possible program. Sorena plans to go to the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities after high school graduation.

## CLUB UPDATES

### MT. AIRY BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

#### NEW TEEN CENTER & SUPER BOWL SURPRISE!



Our 2017 Youth of the Year, Anaa Jibicho, got the surprise of his life on Thursday, January 18 at the Mt. Airy Boys & Girls Club! Anaa was given the gift of a lifetime today when he walked in to the new Teen Center at Mt. Airy and was greeted by Comcast staff members, the Kare11 news team, and former Minnesota Vikings players Tyrone Carter and Dewayne Washington! Allyson Hartle from Comcast presented Anaa with a once-in-a-lifetime experience....

#### **TWO TICKETS TO THE SUPERBOWL AT U.S BANK STADIUM!**

Anaa's hard work and dedication to our Teen Pathways program have paid off, as his story is now an inspiration to our younger members!



# COMCAST

We would like to give a **HUGE THANK YOU** to Comcast for their support of the Clubs and for giving Anaa this once-in-a-lifetime surprise!



# THANK YOU, LOWE'S!



Thanks to a grant from Lowe's from their Renovation Across the Nation initiative and the generous help of Lowe's volunteers, our Mt. Airy Boys & Girls Club was able to renovate an all-new Teen Center for our members!

The Teen Center is equipped with a computer center for members to use for homework and Club programs, and for members to participate in a new IT course taught by Minnesota Computers for Schools, where students will learn gaming and coding, as well as valuable technology skills. The Teen Center also features lots of seating for members to utilize, and coming soon-- a brand-new music studio for the members of the Mt. Airy Boys & Girls Club to explore their creative side and make their own music!

## TEEN LEADERSHIP RETREAT VOYAGEUR ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

During the weekend of January 5-7, 2018, the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities kicked off our first annual Teen Leadership Retreat at Camp Voyageur. The purpose of the Leadership Retreat was for teens from Boys & Girls Clubs from across the state of Minnesota to gather together to network, improve their leadership skills, and prepare for the Youth of the Year competition. The first day of the retreat consisted of team-building activities and an opportunity to socialize with other Club members during Casino Night. Day two was filled with workshops throughout the day! Through the workshops, youth were able to learn more about what qualities define a good romantic partner, how to become more civically involved in their communities, how to define their personal brand, and how to budget their money using the Money Matters curriculum.



Teens were given the opportunity to explore their future career options and to learn about their personality type with the Find Your Fit program. Through the program, teens were able to see which work environment would suit them the best and expand their knowledge about possible career options. Concurrently, Youth of the Year candidates engaged in a two hour training, which covered different aspects of the Youth of the Year process. Teens were given an opportunity to practice their interview skills, given tips on how to deliver their speech, and learned more about their personal brand and their vision for America's youth. Candidates also witnessed a panel of past Youth of the Year winners from across the state and were given an opportunity to ask them questions about their experiences as Youth of the Year. The night ended with more team building activities such as snowshoeing, sledding, card games, and enjoying some delicious s'mores around the camp fire. Sunday morning was spent reflecting on the teens' Leadership Retreat experience.