

# Boys & Girls Club awards excelling club youths

**Fifteen Boys & Girls Club of North Lake Tahoe members acknowledged as 'Youth of the Year' at the inaugural Clubbie Awards**

**Special to the Sun**

KINGS BEACH — Serving more than 800 kids annually and nearly 200 daily, the Club staff acknowledged youths who excel in Club activities. Receiving awards were: Pedro Brito (age 8) and Nicole Evans (age 11) as Artists of the Year. Brito and Evans regularly attend art programs and excel in the various art medians.

Sage Klein (age 11) and Jorge Infante (age 10) were acknowledged as Students of the Year. Each does their homework daily and has excelled in turning in their weekly homework assignments. Zach Blum (age 8) and Hector Vera (age 11) were awarded Techies of the Year for their daily participation in technology sessions in the BOTT lab (Building Opportunities Through Technology) that include the popular LEGO robotics program. Natalie Morales (age 10) and Juan Camacho (age 7) were acknowledged as Athletes of the Year for their participation in a number of sports and fitness activities that include Zumba, Positive Karate and yoga. Andrea Andrade (age 8) and Lisette Aburto (age 11) were acknowledged as Culinary Kids of the Year for their efforts in the Chop Shop program and for assisting with dissemination of snack, having served more than 17,000 last year.

Seven-year-old Luz-Ariana Figueroa was acknowledged as the Club kid who attended most days by logging 1,200 hours of Club time in 2010-2011. Six-year-old Roman Shomo was awarded Club Rising Star for his Club enthusiasm and daily attendance. Nolan Spencer (age 11) was awarded for Outstanding Character &

Leadership as he has been an active member of the Club's Torch Club leadership program and for his contribution to all program areas in the Club. Madison Wallner (age 12) was recognized as Outstanding Service to Club & Community for her entrepreneurial spirit and involvement in countless Club activities.

The evening culminated in the presentation of teen Youth of the Year to Elizabeth Buhler, age 16, who has been a member of the Boys & Girls Club since age 5. Buhler is a junior at North Tahoe High School who excels in academics, is a star soccer player and dedicated member of the distinguished North Tahoe High School Jazz Band.

She will be nominated by the Boys & Girls Club of North Lake Tahoe to compete in the Boys & Girls Clubs of America California Youth of the Year competition in spring 2012. "These 15 kids are remarkable and demonstrate what is possible when kids are in a safe and positive environment," said Executive Director Isabelle Rodriguez Wilson. "We are so proud to share Club member accomplishments with parents and community representatives."

Formed in 1997, the Club currently serves more than 800 youths annually, with close to 200 children in daily attendance at its facilities in Kings Beach.

The Boys & Girls Club of North Lake Tahoe believes great futures start at the Boys & Girls Club and that every child has the potential to BE GREAT.

Volunteer Club Board President John Neary attended with his wife Pat and said, "Tonight is an example of the Club's mission to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring and responsible citizens. I have never been more proud of Club kids, staff and our volunteer

board of directors. In today's economic climate and severe budget cuts to schools, the work of the Boys & Girls Club is more important than ever."

The Boys & Girls Club of North Lake Tahoe was founded to fill a need for affordable year-round youth development services at North Lake Tahoe. Located in Kings Beach, the organization is dedicated to promoting and enhancing youth development by instilling a sense of belonging, usefulness, competence and influence.

The Club's building, built through community support and adjacent to the Kings Beach Elementary School, is where youths daily experience academic support and enrichment activities in five core areas: Education and career development; health and life skills; sports and recreation; the arts and character and development classes.

For more information call 530-546-4324, e-mail Wilson at iwilson@bgcnlt.org or visit www.bgcnlt.org.



Submitted to aedgett@sierrasun.com  
**Kinder Club Director Ashley Aguilar and Rising Star club member Roman Shomo, age 6, shine during the Boys & Girls Club of North Lake Tahoe "Clubbie Awards."**

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