

NEWS RELEASE

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BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF IRC CONTACT: Shirley Reul, Director of Marketing & Events, (772) 299-7449, <u>shirleyreul@bgcirc.org</u>

Boys & Girls Clubs of Indian River County Youth of the Year Winners Speak at Sebastian River Area Chamber of Commerce Networking Luncheon

FELLSMERE: The Boys & Girls Clubs of Indian River County Members, Ashanti and Lizeth, were invited to give a brief speech at this month's Sebastian River Area Chamber of Commerce Networking Luncheon, which was held at Marsh Landing in Fellsmere. Following a great talk from Mayor Joel Tyson, they both shared to all in attendance their recent experience in the Youth of the Year competition and how the Boys & Girls Clubs have made a big impact in their life.

Both girls competed for the County Youth of the Year this past January where several Members from all three clubs (Vero, Sebastian and Fellsmere) competed. Ashanti, a member at the Vero Club, won Youth of the Year, and Lizeth, a member at the Fellsmere Club, won Junior Youth of the Year. On April 7, Ashanti competed in the Youth of the Year State competition and although she will not be moving forward to Regionals, she did an outstanding job. Ashanti, a senior at Vero Beach High School, announced she has been accepted to the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, Florida where she will pursue a career in nursing. Lizeth, still in middle school, shared she wants to be a veterinarian.

To close the meeting, Cheryl Thibault, Operations Director at the Sebastian Chamber, presented Shirley Reul, Director of Marketing (BGCIRC) with a donation. On behalf of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Indian River County Shirley thanked the Chamber and expressed how much BGCIRC appreciates the support.

About Boys & Girls Clubs of Indian River County

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Indian River County improves the lives of young people by providing exceptional facilities, caring mentors, and educational programs after school and during the summer. The organization serves 1,300 children ages 6-18 annually, and 83% qualify for free or reduced lunches in school. The Clubs operate three facilities, one each in Vero Beach, Sebastian and Fellsmere. For more information, visit www.bgcirc.org, www.facebook.com/bgcirc, or call 772-299-7449.