



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

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# NEWS

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## **BGCIRC member Marcus Johnson named Youth of the Year**

On January 28, Boys & Girls Club of Indian River County member Marcus Johnson received the **2009-2010 Youth of the Year** award, the highest honor a Club member can receive, at the sixth annual Youth of the Year and Volunteer Recognition Awards Banquet sponsored by RBC Bank. He will go on to compete at the state competition in Sarasota. If he wins the state competition he'll go on to the regional and possibly national competitions.

Marcus, a member of the Sebastian Club, was selected from three finalists. Other club members were Johntavious Metilus from the Vero Beach Club and Gavon'ta Winn from the Teen Center.

Finalists were evaluated on their academic performance, commitment to community service, leadership abilities, public speaking ability, and dedication to the Club and their family. Judges Peter O'Bryan, Chairman of the Indian River County Board of Commissioners, Claudia Jimenez, Indian River County School Board Member, and Daniel Fourmont, Commercial Relationship Manager with RBC Bank also considered letters of recommendation from the finalists' family members, school officials and mentors.

Johnson, has been a member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Indian River County for four years. He is a member of the Junior Staff, and actively participates in the Passport to Manhood, Money Matters and Career Launch programs. Marcus is an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student at Sebastian River Middle School and is regularly on the honor roll. He is a member of the Sebastian Christian Church and is active with the youth group and participates in various church service projects such as clean-up activities and a fundraising walk to benefit CareNet. Marcus sets a positive example for his little sister and younger Club members. He hopes to attend the University of North Carolina and become a youth minister.

"I have made friends and built relationships with staff members who have played a big role in my life." Said Johnson. "The Boys & Girls Club is a second home for me. It feels like I am part of a big family. I know I can always count on the staff and my friends to be there for me."

Other Club members were recognized at the banquet for their excellence in education, sports, arts, games, club spirit and public service. Club member and Youth Volunteer Corps participant Stephen Ronan was recognized as the Volunteer of the Year for completing 127 hours of community service.

Also recognized, were adult volunteers who give their time, talent and treasure to make a difference in the lives of the Club members.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Indian River County, a United Way and Children's Services Advisory Committee agency, serves over 2,000 young people annually with quality programs that develop citizenship, leadership and character. They have 3 Clubhouse locations in Indian River County, one in Sebastian and two in Vero Beach. A new club will be opening in Fellsmere in August 2010.

The *top* priority of the Boys & Girls Clubs is helping kids succeed in school and in life.

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Our Mission is to inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need us the most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Indian River County is a not-for-profit, 501 (C)(3).