



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Annie Ragovin, Director of Development
858.793.7345 • aragovin@bgcSanDieguito.org

Boys & Girls Clubs of San Dieguito's 2013 Youth of the Year, Daisy Aguilar, Receives Prestigious Gates Millennium College Scholarship

Solana Beach, Calif. (May 8, 2014) – The Boys & Girls Clubs of San Dieguito's 2013 Overall Youth of the Year, Daisy Aguilar, just announced she is a recipient of the prestigious Gates Millennium Scholarship (GMS) Award.

With this scholarship, Daisy will be able to attend the University of San Diego, her first choice out of nine universities she received acceptance letters from. The scholarship provides full funding for Daisy's education in any discipline area of study she chooses to pursue. Gates Millennium Scholars who choose to continue their education beyond a bachelors may request funding for a graduate degree program in one of the following discipline areas: computer science, education, engineering, library science, mathematics, public health or science. In addition, the scholarship pays for any study abroad expenses she incurs.

Only 1,000 high school seniors receive this scholarship each year, (20 from each 50 states). Daisy was one of five chosen from San Diego. Over 52,000 applicants applied this year which puts Daisy in the 2% of students who received the award.

The Gates Millennium Scholarship award is funded by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation back in 1999. In order to meet the requirements for the scholarship, applicants must be of one or more of the following ethnicities: African American, American Indian - Alaska Native, Asian Pacific Islander American, or Hispanic American and with at least a 3.3 minimum grade point average. After meeting these requirements, an intensive application and interview process is also involved.

"My life has changed dramatically in the past three weeks since I have finally committed to my top school, USD, and I am ecstatic to be a Torero", said Daisy Aguilar. "There's nothing better than sharing the joy of this blessing than with the organization that supported me throughout my life. My Boys & Girls Club family was the first to contact me and congratulate me on this award. I could hear all of the staff on speakerphone screaming and shouting while I cried on the other end. My love for them grows each day and I am lucky to have the Boys & Girls Clubs of San Dieguito in my life. **Great Futures REALLY DO Start Here!**"

One of the most unique aspects of the GMS Program is the partnership and collective efforts of the four partner organizations providing services to the continuing Gates Millennium Scholars. GMS Program staff members at the American Indian Graduate Center Scholars (AIGCS), the Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF), the Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF) and UNCF service students from all fifty states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Daisy is growing up in a single-parent home in the Hispanic community of La Colonia de Eden Gardens in the City of Solana Beach, where her mother provides a great support system for her and her brother. She has attended the After-School Program at the La Colonia Branch of the Boys & Girls Clubs of San Dieguito since she was nine years old. She has been instrumental in helping to grow the Teen Mentoring Program at the Club for the Eden Gardens community. Just recently, Daisy started working part time at the La Colonia Branch, where she started as an elementary after-school club member 8 years ago.

-more-

When the La Colonia Teen Program began, Daisy actively encouraged other teens to join and helped to grow the program to over 50 teens. In the past, Daisy has volunteered at the Club as a Leader in Training and assists the younger members at the Club with arts and crafts, games, and activity clean-ups. Giving back to her community is also very important to Daisy. She assists the city of Solana Beach with its annual Cinco de Mayo and Spring Festival events and is the leader for her church youth group. In addition, she leads the Club teen members through community volunteer activities such as feeding the homeless, volunteering for other non-profits, and tutoring younger members.

Daisy will be the first in her family to attend college and plans to double major in business and sociology and obtain her minor in non profit management.

About Boys & Girls Clubs of San Dieguito

The Boys & Girls Clubs of San Dieguito, founded in 1966, is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing positive activities to develop the education, health, self-esteem and character of youth. Today, the organization is one of the most successful Clubs in the country serving more than 20,000 youth in the San Dieguito community to include Carmel Valley, Del Mar, Encinitas and Solana Beach. Our various branches offer exceptional programs for youth to include:

- Personal development through six Core Program Areas
- Clean facilities with dedicated, caring staff members who provide a safe environment for youth
- Quality after-school programs and activities at affordable prices
- Diverse summer camps to fit the needs of all campers
- Innovative specialty programs in academics, music and arts, athletics, and healthy living

For more information on Boys & Girls Clubs of San Dieguito, please visit us at www.bgcsandieguito.org

###