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NEWS RELEASE

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

Boys & Girls Clubs of San Dieguito's Youth of the Year Gala a Huge Success

Solana Beach, Calif. (August 12, 2014) – The Boys & Girls Clubs of San Dieguito hosted the 2nd Annual Youth of the Year Gala, An African Safari Night this past Friday at the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club, Infield Pavilion. The fundraiser sold out with over 440 people attending and netted over \$110,000!

The fundraiser honored the Volunteer of the Year, Terry Lingenfelder of Solana Beach and the Overall Youth of the Year was chosen, Meliza Espinoza. Meliza was chosen from six outstanding teens that attend the Boys & Girls Clubs of San Dieguito. The evening also included night horse racing, silent and live auctions, a gourmet dinner, entertainment, and dancing with the Wayne Foster Band. All net proceeds raised will help provide funding for POSITIVE activities that allow children to learn, grow, and develop healthy lifestyles within a safe and nurturing environment.

"The Youth of the Year Gala was a magical celebration of our members and quality programs in helping to shape tomorrow's leaders by fostering character and leadership development in the more than 20,000 youth that the Clubs serve annually," said David Crean, CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of San Dieguito. "Congratulations to Meliza Espinoza for being chosen as the 2014 Youth of the Year for Boys & Girls Clubs of San Dieguito. I give many thanks to the Gala Committee for providing exceptional leadership that culminated in the extraordinary evening."

Meliza Espinoza, our 2014 Youth of the Year has attended the La Colonia Branch in Eden Gardens, Solana Beach since the fifth grade and was one of the first teen program members. She has always shown initiative and encouraged other teens to participate in the after school program. Meliza is a hard worker and loves to help others. Anytime there is a need for a volunteer either at the La Colonia or Harper Branch, she is always one of the first to ask how she can help. During the summer she volunteers as an L.I.T (Leader in Training). She is also very involved throughout the year in mentoring younger members, as well as helping with various special events and projects at the branch.

Meliza is respected and loved by all the staff and teens and is a positive role model for her sisters. Despite English being her second language and the challenges she has faced because of this, she constantly demonstrates that nothing will get in her way. She works very hard in the after school program to complete her assignments, ensure they are done correctly, and turned in on time. She takes full advantage of the support available to her and is never too proud to ask for helping hand.

Meliza will be the first in her family to graduate high school and plans to attend college. Her strong will is an inspiration to those around her and proof she will be very successful at anything she put her mind to.

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Meliza received a \$1,000 college scholarship from the Boys & Girls Clubs of San Dieguito Foundation and an HP Notebook donated from Hewlett Packard. Meliza will go on to compete on the local, state and regional levels for Youth of the Year, with the five regional winners meeting in Washington D.C. to compete for the National Youth of the Year title and a \$50,000 college scholarship.

In addition to the Youth of the Year, the Volunteer of the Year Terry Lingenfelder, board member for the Boys & Girls Clubs of San Dieguito for over 40 years, had a bold vision: that success is within reach of every person who walks through the doors of the Boys & Girls Clubs of San Dieguito.

Some of Terry's accomplishments at the Club include: his long-standing involvement on the Board of Directors since 1971 (43 years); leadership roles as President of the Board (1979-1981 and 1999-2001) and Chairman of the Foundation Board. In addition, Terry has been instrumental in many of the financing and fundraising initiatives such as Bucks for Boys & Girls (which in its over 40 year tenure raised more than 4 million for the Club) and the Share the Dream Capital Campaign. Our dreams of creating high-quality, positive experiences for children would not have come to fruition without Terry's substantial contributions. Terry has truly made an impact on many lives.

Boys & Girls Clubs of America's Youth of the Year recognition is the highest honor a Club member can achieve. The Youth of the Year program celebrates youth who have overcome enormous odds and demonstrated exceptional character and accomplishments. A committee was comprised of Boys & Girls Clubs of San Dieguito volunteers and board members who chose Meliza, the Overall Youth of the Year for 2014.

The National Youth of the Year serves a one-year term as representative and spokesperson for some 4 million youth served by Boys & Girls Clubs nationwide traveling across the country to address various groups on important youth issues and the role Clubs play in shaping great futures.

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, Solana Beach and Eden Gardens. 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 BGCSanDieguito.org

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