



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

Youth of the Year is our signature effort to foster a new generation of leaders, fully prepared to live and lead in a diverse, global and integrated world economy.

In the 21st-century world and workplace, leadership skills such as communication, goal-setting and teamwork are essential for everyone - especially young people preparing to meet the challenges of adolescence and adulthood. With a grassroots beginning in 1947, Youth of the Year has evolved into a comprehensive leadership development program, which includes:

- Youth of the Month – Leadership Recognition Program
- Junior Youth of the Year – Leadership Readiness Program, and
- Youth of the Year – Leadership Development Program

National Youth of the Year

Each year, one exceptional Club member is selected to be the National Youth of the Year, serving as an ambassador for Boys & Girls Club youth as well as voice for all of our nation's young people. Over the decades, these individuals have exemplified the Boys & Girls Club mission and are proof to the impact Clubs make in transforming and saving kids' lives. National Youth of the Year winners have achieved success in a variety of industries, including entertainment, politics, business and sports.

Becoming National Youth of the Year is an exciting and inspiring journey. Each year, thousands of Club teens participate in local, state and regional Youth of the Year events. Six teens, including five regional winners and a national military youth winner, advance to Washington, D.C., for the National Youth of the Year Gala & Celebration Dinner, where one outstanding young person is named Boys & Girls Clubs of America's national teen spokesperson. The National Youth of the Year is a role model, leader and advocate for the nearly 4 million youth served by Boys & Girls Clubs each year, and all of America's young people.

Speech by Moses Shiong

*There once was a boy that was filled with so much joy,
That every single day he decided to play,
As he grew older and with so much to say,
That boy now as 17, today is the day.
For my name is Muhmoong Her Shiong,
And this is my story and I'm here to say.
Ever since I was little I didn't know what to do,
I just went with the flow like trying singing them lullaby tunes.
Ever since then, I always did what I was told,
But as I grew older I always wondered how I kept hold.
They say parents have a huge influence on their children alone,
But mine wouldn't know I guess you could say my actions can quite show.
As life got harder,
It was hard for me to express.
That many of my family, friends, and peers mistook that as disrespect.
I thought,
What would I do,
What could I say?
Just thinking about it was hard enough for me to get through day by day.
Every single night I had cried to sleep,
But never ever once did my parents asked me if I was okay or if I wanted some tea.
That because I cried I was extremely weak.
I had prayed god for help,
But I had felt so hopeless like as if I couldn't be dealt.
I had wanted to end it,
But I couldn't do so,
Because I had a little sister right behind me,
And I couldn't let go.
As more problems and obstacles came along,
I had forgotten and realized that I had one place I could go to and call home.
For that is the club.
A place was, laughter was everywhere even on the roughest of days.
That time flies by from kindergarten to senior year like a million miles away
No matter how far or what I planned,
The staff take a stance.
Like armored knights that protects their people,
These staff do the same.*

As I learn from them they learn from me.

That no matter what happens in life, I don't have any regret because I know who I was meant to be.

There once was a boy that was filled with so much joy

That every single day he decided to play,

That no matter what,

They would always support him no matter which path he took today.

With the help of these knights that shine so bright,

I now stand at a 3.0 GPA with 5 college credits with an additional 700+ hours of community service, that included forest restoration that has led to my path in environmental science.

As their care and support continues, I have been inspired in taking chances not just for me but for my community in the desire to have a healthy future in which we can learn from one another as we grow like local farms