



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF METROWEST

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LOCAL TEEN SELECTED AS 2009 YOUTH OF THE YEAR

Boys & Girls Clubs of MetroWest (BGCMW) to Host State-Wide Youth of the Year Competition, April 30th

Marlborough, MA–Neil Kouyoumjian is a true example of an extraordinary young man. At age 18, he has just been selected as the Boys & Girls Clubs of MetroWest’s 2009 Youth of the Year. Being named Youth of the Year is the highest honor a Boys & Girls Club member can receive. The title recognizes outstanding contributions to a member’s family, school, community and Boys & Girls Club, as well as personal challenges and obstacles overcome. This program was founded over 60 years ago through the generosity of the Reader’s Digest Foundation.

Neil currently is a student at Assabet Valley Technical High School and is in his senior year. He will be attending the University of Massachusetts – Dartmouth and intends on pursuing a degree in Accounting. Neil has been a member of the BGCMW for 12 years at our Countryside Village Unit. Neil has overcome many obstacles in the last 18 years with the help of his mother, Joanne, and the Boys & Girls Clubs of MetroWest. He is a leader within the BGCMW and a role model for all members.

Neil’s next step will be to compete as the 2009 Youth of the Year for the Boys & Girls Clubs of MetroWest against other Boys & Girls Club members for the Massachusetts Youth of the Year title and a \$1,000 scholarship from the Reader’s Digest Foundation. Kouyoumjian is among hundreds of local youth across the country recognized for his sound character, leadership skills and willingness to give back to the community.

“Neil is the ideal Youth of the Year candidate,” said Francis X. Hurley, President of the BGCMW. “His strong moral character and the positive influence he has on our younger members make us proud to have him represent our Club at the state competition.”

If Kouyoumjian wins at the state competition, he will compete for the title of Northeast Region Youth of the Year and an additional \$10,000 scholarship. The five regional winners will advance to Washington, D.C., in September 2009, to compete for the title of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America's National Youth of the Year. The National Youth of the Year receives an additional \$15,000 college scholarship and is installed by the President in an Oval Office ceremony.

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The Boys & Girls Clubs of MetroWest serves over 3,200 children and youth each year with a low membership fee of only \$25 per child, which makes it one of the largest and most affordable Boys & Girls Club organizations in Massachusetts. 2009 marks our historic 65 years of providing quality out-of-school programming for the children and youth of greater Marlborough, Hudson and Framingham. The Boys & Girls Clubs of MetroWest remains dedicated to being the Positive Place for Kids. Visit us online at www.bgcmetrowest.org.