



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

OF FARMINGTON
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OUTSTANDING FARMINGTON YOUTH TO COMPETE FOR BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA'S STATE YOUTH OF THE YEAR HONOR

Farmington NM, March 3, 2009 – Aubrey Maslen is a true example of an extraordinary young man. At age 17, he has just been selected to compete against other Boys & Girls Club members for the New Mexico Youth of the Year title and a \$1,000 scholarship from the Reader's Digest Foundation. As the Youth of the Year for Boys & Girls Club of Farmington, Maslen is among hundreds of local youth across the country recognized by Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) for his sound character, leadership skills and willingness to give back to the community.

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.

Maslen, a senior at Farmington High School, will be continuing on to college this year with the overall goal of becoming an attorney. Growing up in a single parent home as the oldest of three siblings has shaped Aubrey's life tremendously. He has taken on the responsibility of being a positive role model for his siblings, helping create a good and positive home life, and taking parental responsibilities when his mother works late. He has also been involved in community activities since elementary school where he was elected as a senator for the Kindergarten class. Over the years he has been involved in Speech & Debate, Student Government, the Mayor's Teen Advisory Council, and the Adopt-A-Family program among other things. Currently he works for the Farmington Public Library part-time and is located at the library branch in the Boys & Girls Club.

"Aubrey is the kind of youth that gives me hope for the future of this community and this country", said Benedikte Whitman, chief professional officer, Boys & Girls Club of Farmington.

If Maslen wins at the state competition, he will compete for the title of Southwest 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 BGCA'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.

New Mexico is the only state to also have a junior Youth of the Year competition which

helps prepare the youth for what will come in the senior division. The Boys & Girls Club of Farmington has two Junior Youths-of-the-Year this year, nine year old Dakota Flores-Finch and eight year old Ashley Brooks. Brooks will be representing the Club in this year's competition in Santa Fe, March 27th. Both girls are very helpful in the Club and can be relied upon to assist staff, help other members remember and follow rules, and be positive and cheerful everyday with a smile for everyone. Ashley takes a special interest in members with physical challenges and is always concerned about including them in activities and making sure that other members are kind and helpful to them. Both girls exert positive influences on those around them and model the values the Club works to instill in members.

About Boys & Girls Club of Farmington

The Boys & Girls Club of Farmington represents more than 48 years of service to youth. The Club provides activities and support to more than 1,800 young people ages 6 – 18. With four locations, the Boys & Girls Club of Farmington is the only organization with year-round comprehensive, facilities-based, and affordable youth development programs that are delivered by trained and experienced youth development professionals. “The Positive Place for Kids” offers programs in Education & Career Development, Character & Leadership Development, Health & Life Skills, the Arts, as well as Sports, Fitness, and Recreation. The mission of the Boys & Girls Club of Farmington is *to inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens*. For more information, contact the Boys & Girls Club of Farmington at 327-6396 or visit us on the Web at www.bgcfarmington.org.

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