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SECOND YEAR IN A ROW BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF TUCSON TEEN CLUB MEMBER NAMED 2016 STATE OF ARIZONA YOUTH OF THE YEAR IN LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST HELD ON TUESDAY, April 12, 2016 IN PHOENIX

Tucson, AZ, April 12, 2016 –

Boys & Girls Clubs of Tucson is honored to once again earn state title. Eighteen-year-old Paola Bustamante, an 11 year member of the Steve Daru Clubhouse, and a recent Tucson High School graduate, was named the State of Arizona Youth of the Year on Tuesday, April 12, 2015 at a legislative breakfast held in Phoenix. This is the second year in a row that a Boys and Girls Clubs of Tucson teen Club Member has received the State title. Along with presentations from Paola and 3 other finalists, the breakfast featured speakers Ann Meyers Drysdale and Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich. Paolo competed against 8 teens from across Arizona and will receive a \$5,000 scholarship along with the opportunity to compete at the Regional level in Southern California this summer. There Paola can win additional scholarships and if successful at Regionals, will compete for the National Youth of the Year title later this year. Paola will begin college this spring focusing on Political Science working toward Law School.

Being named Youth of the Year is the highest honor a Boys & Girls Club member can receive and recognizes outstanding contributions and service to a member's family, school, community and their own Boys & Girls Club, as well as personal challenges and obstacles overcome.

Like most Club Members and teens today, Paola faced many challenges in her young life and feels that the Clubs provided her with the tools to overcome fear, shyness, and insecurity. In her speech, Paola reminisced about her first days at the Steve Daru Clubhouse. "I was so shy and scared to leave my mom's side. The Club Staff made sure I felt welcome, before I knew it, I was joining in on fun activities and participating in programs that I benefited in for many years. Thanks to the Clubs, I became a leader, a team player and a powerful speaker," recounted Bustamante. Debbie Wagner, CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Tucson said, "Paola shows unparalleled leadership both at the Clubs and across the community, and is a positive role model for all Club Members. We understand that kids today have unique challenges and need a

tremendous amount of support in order to graduate from high school on time and with a solid plan for their future. The Clubs are honored to be a part of Paola's success!"

Paola and her fellow Clubhouse honorees will be recognized at the Steak and Burger Dinner, this fall at Casino Del Sol Resort on October 2. This is a celebratory event that publicly recognizes Club Members; the kids are treated to steak while the adult guests eat burgers. Over 800 attendees, community supporters and 140 younger Club Members will have the opportunity to hear Paola tell her story. Tucson Conquistadores, longtime supporter of the organization will receive the "Click for Kids" award for championing for the Clubs throughout the years.

About The Boys & Girls Clubs of Tucson

Since 1963, the Clubs have kept local children age 7-17, involved in wholesome activities, providing a positive alternative to the influence of juvenile delinquency. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Tucson offers access to a broad range of programs in five core areas: Character and Leadership Development; Education and Career Development; Health & Life Skills; The Arts; and Sports, Fitness, and Recreation. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Tucson has six locations throughout Tucson and serves over 5,000 youth each year. Membership is only \$10 per school year, while the true cost to the organization is \$600 annually per child. No child is ever turned away due to his/her inability to pay. For more information about volunteering or contributing to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Tucson, visit www.bgctucson.org or call (520) 573-3533.

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