



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF WEST CENTRAL MISSOURI**

MEDIA ADVISORY

3100 Aaron Ave. | Sedalia, Missouri 65301 | (660) 826-8331 | jconner@bgckids.com

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Jenelle Conner
Outreach Specialist
Boys & Girls Clubs of
West Central Missouri
jconner@bgckids.com
(660) 826-8331

GREAT FUTURES START HERE: Exceptional West Central Missouri Club Members Compete for Youth of the Year Honor for Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri
Teen Winner Liam Buell to Now Vie for State Title and Scholarship

Sedalia, MO – January 28, 2011 – Selected among several local outstanding youth, Liam Buell will compete against other Boys & Girls Club members for the Missouri Youth of the Year title and a \$1,000 college scholarship from Tupperware Brands Corporation in early April. As the new Youth of the Year for the Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri, 14-year old Buell is a true example of an extraordinary young man 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. As BGCA's premier youth recognition program, Youth of the Year recognizes outstanding contributions to a member's family, school, community and Boys & Girls Club, as well as overcoming personal challenges and obstacles. Youth of the Year encourages Club members to reach their full potential by achieving academic success, leading healthy lifestyles and contributing to their communities. Youth of the Year honorees are shining examples and living proof that great futures start at Boys & Girls Clubs.

The event was judged by Judge Paul Beard; Sheriff Kevin Bond; Dave Phillips, Publisher of *The Sedalia Democrat* and Robyn Wadley, Boys & Girls Club Board Member and emceed by James Abey, Double O Radio on-air personality. After calculating the judges' results at the Youth of the Year event, Liam Buell, from Leeton High School was announced the winner of the teen competition, Stephanie Trevino from La Monte High School was the runner up and Alexis McNeal from Smithton High School took third.

As the winner of the Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri's Teen Youth of the Year, Buell is able

to apply for a full-ride, four year scholarship to Marquette University. If Buell wins at the state competition, he will compete for the title of Midwest Region Youth of the Year and an additional \$10,000 scholarship from Tupperware Brands, the recognition program's sponsor. The five regional winners will advance to Washington, D.C., in September 2011, to compete for the title of BGCA's National Youth of the Year. The National Youth of the Year will receive an additional scholarship of up to \$50,000 from The Rick and Susan Goings Foundation and will have the opportunity to meet with the President of the United States in the White House.

Although elementary Youth of the Year winners aren't old enough to compete at the state level, the Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri believes it is important to encourage and honor all youth for their achievements.

Ian Wallen, 9-year-old Sedalia Middle School member won the elementary competition and Mason Jasper, 10 -year-old from Smithton Elementary School was the runner up.

For more information about the Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri or the Youth of the Year program call 660-826-8331 or log onto www.bgckids.com.

About Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri

Realizing Potential: Our Children, Our Community, Our Future

Starting in June 2010, the Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri (www.bgckids.com) began celebrating 50 years of providing hope and opportunity to local communities by inspiring all youth to BE GREAT. The Club started in 1960 when a group of local Optimists and Rotarians saw the need for positive youth programming and 50 years later the Club continues to positively impact lives by helping youth reach their full potential as productive and caring citizens.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri serves youth from 6 to 18 years of age by providing guidance-oriented character development programs conducted by trained, professional staff. Key programs emphasize leadership development; education and career exploration; community service; technology training; financial literacy; health and life skills; the arts; sports, fitness and recreation; and family outreach. The Club currently serves 2,220 members in 22 site programs, serving 6 communities and 3 counties in west central Missouri. For more information call 660.826.8331, find the Club online at www.bgckids.com, check out the Club's Facebook page www.facebook.com/pages/Boys-Girls-Clubs-of-West-Central-Missouri/190529020627 or follow the Club on Twitter at bgckids.

About Boys & Girls Clubs of America

For more than 100 years, Boys & Girls Clubs of America (www.bgca.org) has enabled young people, especially those who need Clubs most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. Today, some 4,000 Boys & Girls Clubs serve more than 4.2 million young people through Club membership and community outreach. Clubs can be found throughout the country and on U.S. military installations worldwide, providing young people 6-18 years old with guidance-oriented character development programs conducted by trained, professional staff. Key programs emphasize leadership development; education and career exploration; community service; technology training; financial literacy; health and life skills; the arts; sports, fitness and recreation; and family outreach. In a Harris Survey of alumni, 57 percent said the Club saved their lives. National headquarters are located in Atlanta.

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