Oak Harbor Club Member Named Youth of the Year

Selected from 18 outstanding local youth from Snohomish, Island, and Kitsap Counties, Erika R. Aguilar of Oak Harbor was named the Boys & Girls Clubs of Snohomish County 2014 YOUTH OF THE YEAR at an Awards Dinner on January 29 at Rosehill Community Center in Mukilteo. Erika was awarded a $1,500 scholarship.

The Youth of the Year program begins at the Club level as each BGCSC Club selects their Youth of the Month. A finalist from each Club competes to become the BGCSC Youth of the Year, Boys & Girls Clubs of America’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. BGCSC has had two National Youths of the Year (1983 and 1998).

“Erika started off as a Club member in 6th grade. She has grown from someone who was very isolated, to a staff member who works with and interacts with all youth in our Club...Erika is a great example to our Club kids as someone who has utilized all of the Club’s resources to point her in the direction she wants to go in life. She is a very motivated young woman, self-driven to succeed in school and life.” shared Nikki Barone, Unit Director of the Boys & Girls Club of Oak Harbor.

Erika recalls that as a youngster she was anti-social and angry at everything and everyone. Getting involved at the Club and having Club staff on her side helped her make friends and overcome her negative attitude. She struggled academically, and entered middle school with a third grade reading level. However, she was able to overcome her academic struggles with help from the Club staff and tutoring during the Club’s Power Hour program. Erika indicated that the Club has shown her the importance of staying focused on her education so she can have a better future.

Thank you to our 2014 Youth of the Year judges: Terry Ackley, Tania Halladay, Dominic Ivankovich, Noni LaLone, Bill Rucker, and Preston Simmons!
New Club in Brewster, WA

“Opening the Club in Brewster is such a positive addition to this community,” remarked April Ashworth, Brewster Club Unit Director. “We are so fortunate to have the backing and sponsors to bring this Club to our town. This is a great opportunity for our kids!”

During the first week, nearly 100 members had joined the Club, with an average daily attendance of 70 kids.

The new Club opened March 20th and is located at 601 West Cliff Avenue, next to the City Pool. Facilities include a gymnasium, multi-purpose room, and game center. The Club provides after-school enrichment programs such as Power Hour, Triple Play, High Yield Learning Activities, and Torch Club, and healthy snacks are available in the afternoons to all members as well as a variety of summer day camps.

Gebbers Farms has been a critical advocate and contributor to making the Club a reality. Jon Wyss, Government Affairs for Gebbers Farms, commented “After four years of hard work to bring a Boys & Girls Club to Brewster, and in the wake of the devastating Carlton Complex Fire, the opening of the Club gives a ray of sunshine and hope for recovery. The Club will provide kids throughout the area with a safe place to grow, play, and learn.”

Interest in opening a Club in this area began with Badges for Baseball clinics organized in partnership with the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation and local law enforcement teaching kids about making good choices. Our support of a Club in Brewster is a prime example our mission of reaching out where we’re needed to help kids who need us most. A formal ribbon cutting/tribute will be announced at a later date.

Q&A with New Board Member

John Bonner

John Bonner  MPA, MAT
Everett Community College Executive Director, Corporate & Continuing Education | Industry Liaison

What is the scope of your role at Everett Community College?
I oversee Everett Community College’s Aviation Maintenance Technician School, Advanced Manufacturing Training & Education Center, and Corporate & Continuing Education Center. We train and educate students for high demand careers in industry and work with companies to design and deliver customized training programs for their employees.

Why did you decide to join the BGCSC board?
I believe in BGCSC’s mission of enabling all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. I want to contribute to the effort.

Could you share the vision for how Clubs can help members prepare for STEM careers?
Many young people can’t imagine themselves in a STEM career. At the same time, Snohomish County employers project a shortage of skilled workers in high wage, high demand STEM fields. By providing engaging STEM activities, Clubs are helping young people realize that STEM is fun to learn, especially when it is applied to building things, and that STEM opens doors to many college and career opportunities.

What's something unique about you that most people don't know?
I lived and worked abroad for about seven years, mostly in China and South Korea but also in Slovakia, Uruguay, and Brazil. I love to play soccer recreationally and briefly trained with a professional team in Slovakia.

Reach for the Stars Grand Gala Auction
Save the date! September 26, 2015 at the Tulalip Resort Casino. To become a sponsor, table captain, volunteer, or to donate items, email: gala@bgcsc.org.

180 kids participated in Pro Day at the Everett Club’s Gaffney Field, coordinated by local Club alum and pro ball player Travis Snider. The kids took part in hitting, pitching, speed/agility and defense drills, led by professional baseball players and volunteers.
**Campaign for Kids**

We never turn a child away.

**A Club membership is $30, but the true cost for each kid is $450.**

Through Campaign for Kids, the community can help bridge the gap and make a difference in the life of a child.

During the months of May and June, Campaign Chair Tracey Elfstrom, and a team of volunteer Kid Champions, will be reaching out to the community to encourage involvement and commitment to Club kids.

To be a Kid Champion, or to donate: visit the **Get Involved** section of our website.

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**North Kitsap Club to Get New Home**

The Village Green Foundation will turn the first shovels of dirt on May 3, marking the start of construction of the long awaited 23,000 square foot Community Center in Kingston. Construction will take about ten months. The new center will house the North Kitsap Boys & Girls Club, the Kitsap Regional Library branch, a senior center and community meeting space.

**Thank You!**

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**Sultan Club Wish List**

The new Sultan Club is almost ready ... help us furnish it! Below are a few items from their wish list – visit the Sultan page on our website for the full list, and/or coordinate with Sultan Club Unit Director, Cherise Crawford (ccrawford@bgcsc.org).

- Pool Tables (2) with accessories
- Karaoke Machine
- Wii / X-Box with games
- Dodge balls and other play equipment
- Window coverings and blinds
- Locking cabinets
- Bar tables and bar stools
- Easy-to-clean couch
- Supplies: Arts and crafts; office; cleaning

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**Gaffney Field Gets Facelift**

A groundbreaking ceremony took place October 2 for Gaffney Field upgrades at the Everett Boys & Girls Club. The upgraded field includes astroturf, a new scoreboard, fencing, dugouts, lights, and seating. The renovations were made through partnership with Everett Community College, the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation and Snohomish County Parks and Recreation. The Everett Community College softball team practices and plays ball at the Club field.

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**Thanks to the generosity of Microsoft employees, 1,800 gifts were donated to Club kids through their Giving Tree program. Microsoft will match this with an estimated $65,000.**

Edmonds Club kids participated in a Healthy Habits Rugby program.

Thank you Verdant for supporting Healthy Habits at our Edmonds Club!

Granite Falls Club kids lobbied at the state capital in Olympia for funding to purchase a foreclosed fitness center in Granite Falls to house a new Club.
OUR MISSION

To enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

Community Calendar

April
23 Everett Club Friends of the Club Celebration

May
1 Campaign for Kids Kick-Off
2 Arlington Club Bids for Kids Auction
2 Monroe Club Daddy Daughter Dance
3 North Kitsap Club Groundbreaking
5 GiveBIG
7 Cascade Club Luncheon
9 Tulalip Club 16th Annual It’s for the Kids Auction
16 Snohomish Club Wine Auction
30 Mukilteo Club 47th Annual Benefit Golf Tournament

July
TBD Marysville Club Open House

August
5 Tulalip Club 10th Annual Golf Tournament

September
TBD Cascade Club Bike-a-Thon
TBD Monroe Club Police vs Fire Flag Football
12 Lake Stevens Club Golf Tournament
26 Reach for the Stars Grand Gala Auction

October
3 Mukilteo Club Luau
6 Snohomish Club Breakfast of Champions
16-17 Coupeville Club Spaghetti Feed & Fun Run
17-31 Oak Harbor Club Frightville

Come Visit Us:
• Alderwood
• Arlington
• Brewster
• Cascade
• Coupeville
• Edmonds
• Everett
• Granite Falls
• Lake Stevens
• Marysville
• Monroe
• Mukilteo
• North Kitsap
• Oak Harbor
• Snohomish
• South Everett/Mukilteo
• Sultan
• Trailside
• Tulalip
• Warm Springs

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GREAT FUTURES START HERE

For updates on events and Clubs, visit us at www.bgcsc.org