



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF CAMDEN COUNTY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Boys & Girls Club of Camden County Names Matthew Cottle 2010 Youth of the Year

Camden, NJ – March 26, 2010 – Matthew Cottle has been selected as 2010 Youth of the Year for the Boys & Girls Club of Camden County. Mr. Cottle is among hundreds of Youth of the Year winners across the country recognized by Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) for their 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.

A member of the Club for over eight years Mr. Cottle is a senior at Leap Academy University Charter School in Camden, New Jersey. Mr. Cottle plans to pursue a career as a high school English Teacher. At the club, Mr. Cottle has taken on countless responsibilities as president of the Keystone Club (a peer leadership group), and as a mentor and role model to many of the Club members.

In his Youth of the Year application essay, Matthew wrote, "The staff at the Club has given me encouragement that has helped push me to preserve and succeed. I know I will make my family proud as I strive toward attending college – an opportunity for proper education that was once denied to my great-grandmother. The Boys & Girls Club has provided me with so many opportunities that a "Thank You" isn't good enough. I want to become a teacher so that I can inspire others."

"Matthew has been one of our shining stars and we're proud that he is continuing his education," said Milford Liss, Executive Director at the Boys & Girls Club of Camden County. "This is just the beginning for him, and knowing Matthew, he will achieve great success and come back to show the next generation of Club Members that if you work hard you will go far."

Mr. Cottle will compete against other Boys & Girls Club members for the New Jersey Youth of the Year title and a \$1,000 scholarship from Reader's Digest. If Mr. Cottle wins at the state level, then 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 2010 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.

About The Boys & Girls Club of Camden County:

In its 8th year of operation, the Boys & Girls Club of Camden County strives to inspire and enable the young people of Camden to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens. The Boys & Girls Club of Camden County currently has two Clubhouses which welcome nearly 4,000 children.