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*On a Positive Note...*

## 2012 Youth of the Year Exemplifies Leadership, Compassion and Service to Community

By DEANN HAZEY

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County are proud to announce the **2012 Youth of the Year - Ja'Vonta Swinton**. Ja'Vonta is a self-motivated, responsible, compassionate and giving young man from the Jim and Jan Moran Unit.

A panel of esteemed judges from the community selected Ja'Vonta for this prestigious recognition based on his overall service to the Club, community, academic success, strong moral character, leadership and public speaking skills. Ja'Vonta is a sophomore at Deerfield Beach High School, where he is an exceptional honors student with a 3.75 GPA, an active student leader and junior varsity basketball player.



"It's rare that young men will follow another young man as their leader with the same respect and desire to impress as they would an adult. I truly believe this level of peer respect comes from the way Ja'Vonta carries himself in the spotlight as well as in the shadows," said Coach Jevon Glenn. "The thing I'm most impressed by with Ja'Vonta is that good is never enough for him."

Ja'Vonta has been an active member and volunteer of the Jim & Jan Moran Unit for 10 years; completing more than 200 service hours the last two years. He is currently the President of the Keystone Club and assists many of the younger members with their homework and special projects such as the Youth Educational Success (YES) Program, FCAT preparation and New England SAT Prep Course. He consistently helps serve snacks and supper, likes to give tours of the Club, and assists with flag football, game room tournaments and fitness fun. He has also



*Swinton with judging panel (L to R) John Bianco, Josephine Hart, Brian Quail, Pradeep Vanguri, and Andrew Wurtele*

participated in community projects such as feeding the homeless and helping with Dunn's Run.

"Ja'Vonta is a well-mannered young man and his work ethic as a volunteer added tremendously to the effectiveness of our staff," said Curtis Shoffner, Senior Club Director for the Moran Unit. "His devotion to our kids and this Club is unwavering! Ja'Vonta's commitment to be the very best is only exceeded by his courage to forge upward and onward in spite of any obstacles set before him."

Ja'Vonta said it best, "The Boys & Girls Club is my home away from home. It's always a safe, positive, and reliable place for me to go and have fun. I know that if I ever have any troubles, the Club Staff would be there with open arms and ears to tell me how to handle things, and also how to carry myself like a young educated man. I have had the most excellent times of my life interacting with the members, staff and other Boys & Girls Clubs."

Outside of the Club, Ja'Vonta is active in the Deerfield Beach community serving as a volunteer at his church, Westside Park Recreation Center, and Community Reaching Youth, and as a mentor to his many young cousins. He aspires to attend Michigan State University, attend medical school and ultimately become a heart surgeon. Congratulations, Ja'Vonta!

\*Photos courtesy of Robert Stolpe Photography

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## **BGCBC Members Merge Music & Personal Finance, Win Big**

By JEFFREY ATKINS



Earlier this winter, two teen members of the Lester H. White Boys & Girls Club, Markeist Jones (pictured below) and Noah Galloway (pictured left), both 17, competed in the Money Matters Music Mogul Contest, a Charles Schwab and Boys & Girls Clubs competition for motivated, young adults who perform rap and hip hop music. The goal of the contest was to write lyrics and record vocals for 1 of 3 different

beats created by the producer, Kevin "Khao" Cates, from Atlanta, GA. The teens were faced with the challenge of writing their lyrics entirely about important money issues and practices, topics such as creating a personal budget, starting a bank account, and

saving money for college.

Writing all their lyrics in just two days and recording vocals right in Lester H. White's in-house recording studio, the talented rap duo entered their song, "Money, Power, Respect," which landed a spot in the top 10 among over 50 national entries in the first round. After a grueling month of online voting for their song, the two teens placed second with over 20,000 votes, putting them in the top 5 in the nation. The next phase of the competition left it up to Khao to decide on a winner, and unfortunately another song was chosen. However, while Jones and Galloway did not win the grand prize, as runners-up they will each receive a \$500 Money Matters Music Mogul scholarship to go towards their college funds.



Many other members and staff of Lester H. White also participated in the online voting, an amazing example of the teamwork, love, and respect clearly present at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County. With this inaugural success under their belt, the club is sure to compete in future Money Matters Music Mogul contests, and it wouldn't be a huge surprise if Jones and Galloway, or any of the Club's other talented members, come out on top in future competitions as well as in their educational and professional lives.

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## Cathy Donnelly Named Board Leader of the Year

By DEANN HAZEY



Cathy Donnelly is the modern day Super Woman. She manages to be an outstanding wife and mother, serves as Director of Community Relations for the Castle Group, volunteers for numerous organizations, and serves as the Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County (BGCBC) President and incoming Chair. Mrs. Donnelly was recognized for her tireless work with BGCBC on February 24, 2012 when she received the Non-Profit Academy Award for Board Leader of the Year from Bank Atlantic and 2-1-1 Broward. The award honors the recipient's visionary leadership, ethical integrity, collaboration in the broader community as well as creativity and innovation to successfully

address core community issues.

Every initiative that Mrs. Donnelly begins, she puts in 110% to ensure that it is a success. Her largest contribution to BGCBC is that of the K.I.S.S. (Keep It Simple Service) Program. Founded in August 2004, the K.I.S.S. Program provides Club members with free nutritious snacks and has recently expanded to include free nutritious hot suppers. To date, the K.I.S.S. Program has served approximately 258,601 free nutritious snacks and suppers throughout all 11 Clubs.

“It is truly an honor to be recognized for our work in the community and as a Board member at the Boys and Girls Club,” said Donnelly. “We all work tirelessly for a cause dear to our hearts. This award recognizes how everyone has the ability to help for the greater good.”

Mrs. Donnelly’s passion and dedication for our organization has propelled it to new heights. She not only lends her expertise to the organization, but inspires so many of us to reach beyond ourselves to make a difference in our members' lives.



*Donnelly (left) with Director of Operations, Di Maharaj visit a Club during Supper*

Congratulations Cathy! Thank you for all that you do for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County!

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## Mariner is a Hit in North Lauderdale

By KARRIEM EDWARDS



**Jonathan D. Mariner is the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Major League Baseball.** He advises commissioner “Bud” Selig on league finances and oversees more than a half billion dollars of Major League Baseball’s money plus the bank accounts of the leagues’ 30 teams. Long before achieving success he was another teen trying to fit into a new neighborhood. Fortunately for Jonathan the **Willis Houston Boys Club of Norfolk** was there to ease the transition. Mariner moved

with his family from rural Virginia to Norfolk in the early 60's and credits the club with providing "hours of fun, learning and recreation while keeping him, his brother and friends out of trouble."

The members and guests of the North Lauderdale Club (Levine-Slaughter/Leo Goodwin Foundation Teen Center) were proud to host Mr. Mariner on February 13, 2012. Keystone and Torch Club members greeted him and gave him a tour of the club as other members approached him for a hand shake. The cadet game room bulletin board was decorated with his photos and biographical information. The gym was converted into a baseball stadium with a "jumbotron" and bleacher seating. Keystoner, Keisha Ferjuste opened the event and welcomed guests. After a well-researched introduction given by fourth grader, Rahsad Mundy, Mr. Mariner spoke about his days in the Club and the impact it had on his development. He advised the audience to be good listeners, leaders, not followers and said, "I never had great plans, other than **whatever I do, I want to do it to the best of my ability.**" Although athletic and a self-proclaimed ping pong champ who could dunk a basketball at 5'10", Mariner was serious about education which enabled him to achieve his greatness. Melita Bailey (pictured above), our 2012 Youth of The Year moderated questions from the audience after Mariner addressed the crowd. One of the questions asked if he wished he was born wealthy and Mariner expressed his pride in recently celebrating his family's 50<sup>th</sup> reunion and how that was worth more than money.



The program concluded with BGCBC Vice President, Matt Organ presenting Mr. Mariner a lifetime membership card and a *Living Proof (...that great futures start here)* trophy with a baseball autographed by club members. Each guest also received a baseball card with Mariner's photo and accomplishments which he kindly autographed then patiently talked with all interested members and guests. We thank Mr. Mariner for taking time out of his busy schedule to fly in from New York and visit our club. Anyone in attendance that night left convinced that **Great Futures Start Here!**



Photos compliments of Sander Schrantz of Hands on Broward



*Look Who's Coming to Our Clubs!*



**CITY OF LAUDERHILL COMMISSIONER MARAGRET BATES @ THE LAUDERHILL UNIT**



**GINEEN BRESSO, CANDIDATE FOR UNITED STATES CONGRESS @ THE DEGEORGE UNIT WITH EVP, MATT ORGAN**



**BROWARD COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER ROBIN BARTLEMAN @ THE DEGEORGE UNIT WITH CEO, BRIAN QUAIL**

## BGCBC Club Directors Selected for Art Williams Club Director Institute at Southeast Regional Conference

By KARLA ZAMORA & CHRISTINE RICHARDSON



*(L to R) Nicole Reed-Hudson, Naomi Felix, & Michele Weiser work together to prepare a presentation on what they learned at the Southeast Regional Conference*

BGCBC Club Directors, Eric Louis, Christine Richardson, Karla Zamora, and Karriem Edwards received expert training and education at this year's regional conference as they were selected to participate in the Arthur L. Williams, Jr. Club Directors' Institute. Held on March 6-8, 2012, in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, the Institute was a two and a half day training program for Club Directors who have less than two years of experience. The topics covered, including the role of the club director, child and facility

safety, and managing the outcome driven club, provided a well-rounded training for the Directors that will lead to more efficiently and effectively managed Clubs.

The primary goal of the Club Directors Institute was to provide Boys & Girls Club management professionals with tools, strategies, techniques and resources designed to support the development of skills and competencies related to managerial roles and responsibilities. Several amazing Boys & Girls Club of America training professionals added to the experience by speaking on their area of expertise and providing learning experiences. The Institute also provided the Directors with the opportunity to meet other professionals, exchange ideas, gain new insights and build lasting relationships.

Beyond training and education, the Institute encouraged the Directors to strengthen themselves in various professional and personal areas by examining their weaknesses, strengths, aspirations and personal vision. The acceptance of our Club Directors to attend this training was an honor as many professionals were turned away by the Institute. To know that our organization was awarded five scholarships to attend the Institute is phenomenal and it says a lot about how the National office views the Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County.



## Volunteer Spotlight: Gary Cancinos

By NICOLE REED-HUDSON



*Gary (left) with his brother Rudy at Biker's Bash*

Gary Cancinos has been a dedicated volunteer for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County since August 2011. He began volunteering in the administrative office and soon became one of our most valued volunteers. Whether he spends his time helping with accounting, events, or clerical work, Gary always offers 100% of his efforts. Gary has given over 50 hours of his time volunteering at Boys & Girls Clubs events such as Network with a Cause,

Biker's Bash, Future Tastes Great, and Concours d' Elegance. He is always one of

the first volunteers to arrive and one of the last to leave. We know we can always count on Gary, and his commitment to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County is truly appreciated!

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## Club Members Experience the Thrill of Classic Cars up Close

By CURTIS SHOFFNER



The 6<sup>TH</sup> Annual Concours d' Elegance afforded a select group of members from the Boys and Girls Clubs of Broward County to embark on a journey into the World of Classic Cars. This exciting experience was made possible through the Hagerty Insurance Youth Judging Program.

The program was introduced in 2007 and has provided more than 1500

kids with the opportunity to learn more about classic cars. Under the guidance of Hagerty Youth Coordinator, Tabetha Salsbury, our members were dubbed youth judges. Tabetha explained to the kids the importance of the task at hand while encouraging each child to embrace and enjoy the experience.

The kids were very excited and really felt special when they were each given a red hat and blue t-shirt to wear—the official uniform for youth judges. After a brief orientation, the kids were ready to go. With clipboards in hand and pens ready, they were off to learn more about the uniqueness of the cars.

Each classic car inspection took them on a historical journey into the unique details, value and care given by the car's owner. The kids had the distinct pleasure of meeting the youngest antique car owner who was 11 years old. He inherited his car from his grandfather.



*Youth Judges inspect the engine of a classic car*

The youth judges were instructed by Tabetha to judge the cars based on the following categories; design, interior, electrical, paint and engine. Many of the car owners welcomed the kids and gladly took time to explain the details of their car to the kids. There were plenty of questions asked by the kids as well as they were blown away by the experience. Some even commented that the Concours was “the best field trip ever!” Their winning car, by a landslide vote was a Shelby Mustang.

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## **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Boca Raton Concours d’ Elegance, Most Charitable in the World**

By FRANCI RADER

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Boca Raton Concours d’ Elegance presented by Mercedes-Benz was a huge success! The three day event attracted more than 10,000 attendees and raised



*Aerial view of DuPont Registry Live hangar party*

more than \$1 million dollars for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County, making the Boca Raton Concours d’ Elegance the fastest growing Concours in the nation, and the world’s largest for charity. This year, the Concours celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Shelby Cobra and the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Aston Martin.

The weekend festivities kicked off with Friday night’s “DuPont Registry Live!” hangar party, presented by Ulysse Nardin, at the Boca Raton Executive

Airport. Due to the tremendous success of last year's event, this year's party expanded to include two hangars, doubling the fun for the more than 3,000 guests who attended. Guests were able to see a fine selection of exotic and classic cars, motorcycles, boats and airplanes, as well as purchase fabulous items from luxury vendors displaying such items as jewelry, fine art, binoculars and more! This year, the event was proud to feature the stunning collection of Michael Fux's one-off exotic cars plus original James Bond vehicles and memorabilia courtesy of the Dezer Collection. Guests also indulged in scrumptious tastings from more than 30 of the best restaurants in South Florida, as well as in an array of fine wines and spirits.

On Saturday night, more than 1,000 guests were treated to a James Bond themed Gala dinner, auction, show and casino, presented by Marti & H. Wayne Huizenga, Mike Jackson and AutoNation, at the beautiful Boca Raton Resort & Club. The elegant evening began with a cocktail reception and a silent auction where guests had a chance to enter a \$100 Champagne Raffle courtesy of J.R. Dunn Jewelers. Following that, guests enjoyed a Gala Dinner, a Live Auction filled spectacular one-of-a kind cars, jewelry and trips, and a Show with a live performance by Dana Carvey.



*Dana Carvey with Mr. & Mrs. James R. Dunn*

The excitement didn't stop there. This year, for the first time ever, the Automotive Lifetime Achievement award was presented to three automotive industry icons; Carroll Shelby, Edsel Ford and John Staluppi in the categories of Automobile Racing, Automobile Manufacturer and Automobile Dealer, respectively. For the third year in a row the Concours presented the Lee Iacocca Award to a person who has demonstrated dedication to the classic car hobby and who has unselfishly assisted and encouraged others in perpetuating an American Automotive Tradition. This year Bob and Paul Milhous received the coveted award for their years of dedication to the world renowned Milhous Museum and Collection.



*Best in Show winner, James Patterson, with Rick Case, Brian Quail and Jamie McDonnell IV*

One of the most exciting components of this year's Boca Raton Concours was the unveiling of the new show field which was newly designed and doubled in size exclusively for the Boca Raton Concours during the Car and Motorcycle Exhibition, presented by the Rick Case Automotive Group. An expert panel of nationally known judges, led by Grand Marshal, Mr. Ed Gilbertson and Chief Judge, Dr. Paul Sable,

used French judging rules to judge over 200 pristine automobiles and motorcycles for their historical accuracy, technical merit, and overall style. A classic European stunner, a 1939 Bugatti 57C, owned by renowned collector James Patterson, took home “Best In Show.” The Concours d’ Gourmet Café Pavilion, presented by JM Family Enterprise, once again offered guests a delectable assortment of libations and gourmet foods from over 30 of South Florida’s finest restaurants.

Other sponsors of the weekend included, but were not limited to: Audi, Honda Jets, Southern Wine & Spirits, Audi Coral Springs, Shelby American Inc, Hagerty Car Insurance, Ferrari-Maserati of Fort Lauderdale, Rolls Royce of Fort Lauderdale, Lamborghini of Palm Beach, and the Arthur E. Benjamin Foundation.

“We began this event six years ago for two reasons,” said Rick Case. “One was to unite car enthusiasts from around the world and two was to support a much deserving charity; the Boys & Girls Clubs. We are thrilled to



*Club members served as the official greeters at the Gala dinner*

say not only is the Boca Raton Concours thriving but it has become one of the fastest growing and most charitable Concours in the World.”

