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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**OUTSTANDING SPOKANE TEEN TO COMPETE FOR BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA'S STATE YOUTH OF THE YEAR HONOR**



**SPOKANE, WASHINGTON, MARCH 16, 2010** – Faith Proctor, age 18, has just been selected to compete against other Boys & Girls Club members for the Washington state Youth of the Year title on March 19<sup>th</sup> at the Governor's mansion in Olympia. As the Youth of the Year for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County, Proctor is among hundreds of local youth across the country recognized by Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) for her sound character, leadership skills and a 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. Proctor said, "Winning Youth of the Year was not just for me, this was something that my entire family needed. We all needed something to lift us up during these difficult times."

Proctor, first started attending the Boys & Girls Club Libby Teen Branch six years ago when she needed a safe place where she could find support from caring adults due to a neighborhood filled with violence and poverty. Despite her harsh surroundings, Proctor has proved to be a pillar of strength, working two part-time jobs for the last two years to help support her family. Embodying her name, Faith has also been diligent in school taking advanced placement courses and assisting her varsity basketball team to three state championships. Proctor will be graduating this spring from Lewis and Clark High School with a 3.0 GPA and is looking forward to attending Washington State University in the fall where she will be pursuing a degree in Special Education.

Being true to her selfless hard-working nature, Proctor also enjoys giving back to the underprivileged families in her community that she identifies with. When this bright young woman isn't working or going to school, she finds the time to volunteer at her Boys & Girls Club, the East Central Community Center, the Martin Luther King Outreach Center, and her church. Along with all of her volunteer work, she is also a member of the service organizations, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and the Boys & Girls Club Keystone Club.

“Faith really deserves this honor. She has worked so hard and against so many odds to graduate from high school and attend college,” said Jesse Monteon, Branch Director for the Boys & Girls Club Libby Teen Center, where Proctor has been a Club member for 6 years.

When asked what does the Club means to you Proctor responded, “I love going to the Boys & Girls Club because it is a place that I can go to get help on everything from basketball to homework, or just have a conversation without being judged.”

If Proctor wins at the state competition, she will compete for the title of Pacific Region Youth of the Year and an additional \$10,000 scholarship. The five regional winners will then 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 Clubs of Spokane County**

Since 2001, The Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County has been a part of a nationwide affiliation of local, autonomous organizations dedicated to helping young people of all backgrounds develop the qualities they need to become responsible citizens and leaders. Founded in the philosophies of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County operates multiple Clubs in order to provide a broad range of programs in five Core Areas: Education and Career Development, Character and Leadership Development, Health and Life Skills, The Arts and Sports, Fitness and Recreation.

Currently serving more than 2,400 area youth between the ages of 6 - 18, The Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County operates three Clubs year-round from Friday through Monday. For a yearly membership fee of \$10, youth have access to all of the Clubs: Northtown Branch (Open 3pm – 7pm); the Libby Teen Center (Open 4pm – 8pm) and the Lisa Stiles-Gyllenhammer Mead Branch scheduled to open in March 2010 (Open 3pm – 7pm). For more information about the Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane, visit [www.bgcspokanecounty.org](http://www.bgcspokanecounty.org)

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