



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**GREAT FUTURES START HERE:
Abigaelle Caillot Named Youth of the Year**

Orlando, FL. (February 19, 2019) – Abigaelle Caillot, an 18-year-old Senior at Dr. Phillips High School in Orlando, has been named the 2019 Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida Youth of the Year—a competition sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Orlando Foundation. Abigaelle will represent Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida (BGCCF) in the competition to become State Youth of the Year in early April. She also received a \$5,000 college scholarship from the Kiwanis Club of Orlando Foundation.

The Youth of the Year competition recognizes members of Boys & Girls Clubs who represent the organization's three priority outcomes: Academic Success; Good Character & Citizenship; and Healthy Lifestyles. Abigaelle was selected through a competitive judging process of 4 finalists, who were themselves selected from among the more than 3,500 teens served by BGCCF.

A six-year member of BGCCF's Levy-Hughes Club in Orlando's Parramore neighborhood, Abigaelle distinguished herself in the competition as a model of resilience and determination. After a tragic car accident that killed her father and cousin left Abigaelle with a broken femur and unable to walk, the Parramore youth felt lost in despair. At her Boys & Girls Club she found the community, emotional support and father figures she needed to help her heal. Her Club also encouraged her passion for art, which blossomed into "Caillotagelle Designs," a small art business whose proceeds benefit impoverished children in Haiti. Now a fully-recovered high school senior and Varsity Cheerleading captain at Dr. Phillips High, Abigaelle will attend college next year and study to become a nurse practitioner.

Tasha Robinson-Banks, the Senior Service Director at the Levy-Hughes Club, calls Abigaelle “a tireless advocate for those less fortunate. She is a survivor in every sense of the word—she has a tenacity, forged by the tragedy in her own life, that will serve her well and help her accomplish great things.”

In her acceptance speech, Abigaelle said, “I stand before you excited for my future when before, I couldn't see one. I remind myself that every day is a new opportunity to make the most of my second chance.”

About Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida:

Since 1944, Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida has provided at-risk children from the local community, between the ages of 6 and 18, with a safe place to learn and grow. Our membership totals more than 15,000 young people at 35 Clubs and middle school sites in 7 counties. The mission of Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida is to inspire and enable all young people, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens. Learn more at 407.841.6855, www.bgccf.org, facebook.com/bgccf.

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