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BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

For Immediate Release

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**The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club of Greater Charlotte
Announces Its 2024 ‘Youth of the Year’**

The winner will compete in regional competitions for a chance to win additional scholarships and a chance to become the national teen spokesperson for the Boys & Girls Club of America

Editors Note: Images and b-roll are available here: <https://www.dropbox.com/t/uU2FJkfwboujkGBN>

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (March 5, 2024) – The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club of Greater Charlotte announced **Briana Higgins** today as the Club's Youth of the Year. Higgins is a junior at Mallard Creek High School and has been a Belmont Avenue Boys & Girls Club member for nine years. The award includes a \$10,000 scholarship upon graduation and eligibility to move on to the Boys & Girls Club regional competition.

Higgins is a talented student who excels in and out of the classroom. She is a member of her school's jazz, symphonic, and concert bands and is an indoor track and field athlete who also plays flag football. Despite her busy schedule, she maintains a remarkable 4.35 GPA.

“Briana is an exceptional student who embodies the characteristics we look for in a Youth of the Year candidate,” says Mike Tanner, Executive Director of The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club of Greater Charlotte. “She is a resilient and influential individual who is destined to make a significant impact in the world.”

“The Club allowed me to realize my passions and gave me the confidence in my ability to become everything I aspire to be,” says Higgins. “The programs taught me to present myself in an honorable way, how to recognize my environment, and how to show kindness and compassion to every individual—no matter their backgrounds, beliefs, privileges, or appearances.”

Higgins shared her passion for helping infants and children, which led her to desire to pursue neonatal nursing. Her dream is to open a birthing facility full of love and support for patients who come through her door. She will attend an eight-day medical conference in July at her dream school, UCLA. She also has her eye on other colleges, such as Florida A&M University, the University of Florida, Clemson University, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Higgins follows in the footsteps of her sister, Jasmine Higgins, who was named ‘Youth of the Year’ in 2023. Jasmine Higgins is a student at Winston-Salem State University.



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About the Youth of the Year Program

The Youth of the Year program is Boys & Girls Clubs of America's premier recognition program, celebrating the extraordinary achievements of its Club members. The winner of The Salvation Army's state competition goes on to compete in the Boys & Girls Clubs of America's state, regional, and, if selected, national competitions. Each level comes with the opportunity to win college scholarships.

About The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Charlotte

The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Clubs was founded locally in 1935 on North Poplar Street. Today, eight clubs serve hundreds of members in Mecklenburg and Union counties. Programs include academics, recreation, the arts, character and leadership, and health and life skills. For nearly 90 years, The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Charlotte has provided a safe place for youth in the community during out-of-school time, creating a positive environment to help children excel in school and succeed in life. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Charlotte is a program of The Salvation Army of Greater Charlotte. For more information, visit BGCCharlotte.org.

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