

# **Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Redlands-Riverside will honor organizations, youth at Be Great Awards event**

Posted: 05/07/15, 11:31 PM PDT|

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Redlands-Riverside will honor Kiwanis, T-Mobile and the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians at its inaugural Be Great Awards in San Bernardino May 15.

The event will be held at the historic Fox Theatre at 398 W. Court St. and will include dinner, dessert and a silent auction. All proceeds will benefit Boys & Girls Club programs, including the Scholarship Fund.

Following are the awards to be presented.

- The Be Great Future Award will go to Kiwanis Division 36, which includes clubs in San Bernardino, Redlands, Fontana, Rialto, Highland, Big Bear, Yucaipa and Colton. Kiwanis clubs provide scholarships to local high school students, offer youth leadership clubs and camps and do a variety of service projects in the community.
- The Be Great Impact Award will go to T-Mobile, for spearheading the toy drive for the Boys & Girls Clubs' Holiday Extravaganza. Inland Empire T-Mobile has collected 1,400 to 1,800 toys a year, and more than 100 employees have volunteered at the event every year. Toys are donated by T-Mobile employees and customers.
- The Be Great Mission Award will go to the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, which has given \$280,000 to the Boys & Girls Clubs over the past 10 years. Education is one of the tribe's four charitable giving focuses, and the tribe supports "projects that address educational disparities and boost educational opportunities for youth. Of particular interest are efforts that positively impact reading by third grade, high school graduation and college-going rates."

In addition to honoring these organizations, attendees can meet the Boys & Girls Clubs' Youth of the Year and Junior Youth of the Year, who are chosen for their character and citizenship at school and the clubs.

The 2015 Youth of the Year is Chyna Phillips and the Youth of the Year Ambassadors are Makayla Pennix, Shane Johnson, Kamryn Coleson and Kevin Ponce.

- Chyna Phillips is a senior at Redlands East Valley High School and has been coming to the Boys & Girls Club for six years. She is a member of REV's East Valley Singers and track and field team, and is active in the Boys & Girls Clubs' Keystone Club, College Bound and Junior Staff programs.

She plans to attend college and become a registered nurse. In one of her essays, she writes that, as president of the Keystone Club, she learned the importance of leadership, service and college.

“My involvement in the Club has helped me overcome obstacles in my life. My family and I have had financial troubles, and by me going to the Club and participating, it has helped me thrive,” she writes.

- Kamryn Coleson is a senior at Citrus Valley High School and has been a Boys & Girls Club member for eight years. She has been active in many club programs, including Keystone, and has served as a Junior Staff member and counselor at the Boys & Girls Clubs’ Camp Einstein, which teaches kids about science and math in summer.

She is interested in art and is taking animation and game design ROP classes, and wants to attend the Academy of Art University so she can be an animator.

- Shane Johnson is a junior at Redlands East Valley High School and has been a Boys & Girls Club member for three years. He has been a member of several school choirs and clubs, is on the track team and is trying for a spot on next year’s cheer squad. He has participated in several Keystone service projects. He plans to attend college and build up a following for his YouTube channel, and eventually wants to work for the Human Rights Campaign.

- Makayla Pennix is a junior at Citrus Valley High School and has been coming to the Boys & Girls Club for 10 years. She is a Junior Staff member and has been involved in several service projects with Keystone, which she helps lead. She plans to go to college to pursue a career in sports medicine and also wants to start an after-school program that would provide tutoring and day care for teenage mothers.

- Kevin Ponce is a senior at Orangewood High School and has been a Boys & Girls Club member for several years. He went from failing high school and using drugs to recovering his credits, getting good grades and being on track to graduate. He has been active in many Boys & Girls Club programs, including Junior Staff and Keystone, and has been involved in many service projects. He plans to study electrical engineering in college.

“The Be Great Awards will bring together our best-of-the-best youth and advocates at a unique, historic venue,” said P.T. McEwen, chief executive officer of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Redlands-Riverside.

“We are proud to honor our Youth of the Year and people and businesses from the Inland Empire that support our mission of providing great futures for kids,” McEwen said.

Doors open at 6 p.m., and dinner and awards start at 6:30. Attire is business casual.

Tickets are \$50 and table sponsorships range from \$500 to \$5,000. Event underwriting and other sponsorship opportunities are available.

For information, call 888-822-6535 or visit [www.BeGreatIE.org](http://www.BeGreatIE.org).

*Source: Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Redlands-Riverside*