

I would like to say thank you to everyone gathered here today because I wouldn't be standing up here without you. This is the biggest thing that has ever happened to me and I am really proud to be receiving this Youth of the Year award and representing the Boys and Girls Club of Vista.

The club is like a safe haven to me. When I first came to the club, some other club members gave me a tour and they were very friendly and nice. The club teaches kids how to be welcoming to new kids and that made me feel really welcomed even though I was kind of scared at first.

I have so many special memories at the club, Christmastime is always the best. The club is like a wonderland for kids with tables covered in mounds of toys. It's also cool that we have a Santa Claus, it makes it really exciting for the younger kids.

The staff at the club are amazing and will always be there for you. They always find clever ways to entertain us even when it is challenging. The music teacher, Mr. Brandon, is really inspiring, no matter how bad you are, they always encourage you to do better and eventually you do get better. Even the people who work in the offices at the club are really amazing and nice to us.

I would love to continue being a part of the Boys and Girls Club in when I am in middle school and volunteering there when I am in college. The club has been such a big part of my life. Thank you again for this award. It means a lot to me.