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FEATURED

YOUTH OF THE YEAR: Boys & Girls Club honors pair of young standouts

BRIAN M. JOHNSON @brianjohnsonBP
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Josie is the Boys & Girls Club of Bristol's Youth of the Year. The Boys & Girls Club also chose a junior youth of the year. The



BRISTOL — The Boys & Girls Club of Bristol and local leaders congratulated Josie, the Boys & Girls Club of Bristol’s Youth of the Year, and Victor, Junior Youth of the Year, during a ceremony.

The Boys & Girls Club of Bristol does not release the last name of the winners.

“Every year, ‘Youth of the Year’ reminds us just how special the young people at the Boys & Girls Club of Bristol truly are,” said Jon Rulkowski, director of development with the Boys & Girls Club of Bristol. “Josie and Victor rose to the top not just because of what they’ve accomplished, but because of who they are.”

Rulkowski said Josie and Victor “lead by example” and “support the people around them.” He said they “represent everything The Club is about.”

“When you hear their stories, you see the growth, the resilience, and the leadership that happens here every day,” he said. “We couldn’t be prouder of them and all of our candidates who shared their Club journeys tonight.”

Superintendent of Schools Iris White said the pair “represent the very best of our students and our community.”

“Their intelligence, resilience and strong character were evident and inspired everyone present,” White said. “They are thoughtful, driven young people who are already making a positive impact and I have no doubt they will grow into outstanding leaders in the years ahead. Our community has a bright future with students like Victor and Josie leading the way.”

The Boys & Girls Club of Bristol said the awards recognize outstanding leadership, service, academic excellence and a commitment to living a healthy lifestyle.

“I was so impressed with Josie and Victor’s stories,” Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu said. “They embody the saying ‘it takes a village,’ and I am so thankful that we as a community have a Boys and Girls Club that does what it does on West Street and at Cambridge Park.”

Josie was also the recipient of the Charles Kushlan Memorial Achievement Award. This award, presented in partnership with the Main Street Community Foundation, honors the legacy of Charles Kushlan and his dedication to supporting young people in the community.

“Your future is bright and we can’t wait to see what you accomplish next,” the Boys & Girls Club said about Josie.

The Club also highlighted the junior youth of the year.

“Victor represents the very best of what it means to be a Club kid,” the Boys & Girls Club of Bristol said. “Through his leadership, positive attitude and commitment to growing both in and out of the classroom, he truly stood out among his peers.”

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