

9 January 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GREAT FUTURES START HERE: EXCEPTIONAL SEYMOUR JOHNSON AFB  
TEEN NAMED YOUTH OF THE YEAR

Brianna Buss to Now Vie for State Title and Scholarship

Seymour Johnson AFB, 9 January 2014 – Selected from amongst several outstanding local youth, Brianna Buss, will compete against other Boys & Girls Club members North Carolina Military Youth of the Year and a \$1,000 college scholarship from Tupperware Brands Cooperation. As the Youth of the Year for Seymour Johnson AFB, 14 year old Brianna is a true example of an extraordinary woman recognized by Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) for her sound character, leadership skills and willingness to give back to the community.

Being named Youth of the Year is the highest honor a Boys & Girls Club member can receive. As BGCA's premier youth recognition program, Youth of the Year honors outstanding contributions to a member's family, school, community and Boys & Girls Club, as well as personal challenges and obstacles overcome. Youth of the Year encourages Club members to reach their full potential by achieving academic success, leading healthy lifestyles and contributing to their communities. Youth of the Year honorees are shining examples and living proof that great futures start at Boys & Girls Clubs.

"Brianna is a very versatile young lady. I have had the pleasure of watching her sing and dance in our local theatre as well as join in the Youth Programs science activities. She is always available when you need a helping hand and knows the true meaning of responsibility and respect. I'm proud to have Brianna represent Seymour Johnson as our Youth of the Year." said Jasmine Carroll, Youth Director, Seymour Johnson AFB.

Brianna has accomplished much despite the challenges that come with being a Military Dependent. Frequent moves, family separations and the departing of close friends pose interesting challenges. Resilient teens, like Brianna, find ways to turn these experiences into growing opportunities. Brianna's involvement with SJAFB YP for the past four years has helped her to learn and build upon her strengths. When she was first involved in YP Brianna's focus was on our Art and Music programming. Through the years, she has advanced to President of our Keystone and Teen Council, teen groups dedicated to leadership and community service, and has lead the teens through making great accomplishments. These include helping at the Community Soup Kitchen, collecting soda pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House of Eastern North Carolina and completing the 2013-2014 Keystone National Project on raising awareness for Self Harm and Teen Suicide.

If Brianna wins at the state competition she will compete for title of Southeast Region Youth of the Year/ Southeast Region Military Youth of the Year title and an additional \$10,000 scholarship from Tupperware Brands, the recognition program's national sponsor. Fir regional representatives and a military winner will advance to Washington, D.C. in September 2014, to compete for the title of BGCA's National Youth of the Year. The National Youth of the Year will receive an additional scholarship of up to \$50,000 from The Rick and Susan Goings Foundation and will have the opportunity to meet with the President of the United States in the White House.

ABOUT SEYMOUR JOHNSON AIR FORCE BASE YOUTH PROGRAMS

The program's mission is to assist military and civilian families in balancing the competing demands of family life and the accomplishment of the military mission. Our philosophical approach is grounded on current research and knowledge of youth development. The program is committed to welcoming youth and families and to partner with and support them in their parenting role. Youth are valued as individuals, as well as part of a group. Likewise, our program respects and supports the ideals, cultures and values of families in their task of nurturing youth. We advocate for youth, families, and youth professionals within our programs.

#### ABOUT BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF AMERICA

For more than 100 years, Boys & Girls Clubs of America (GreatFutures.org) has enabled young people most in need to achieve great futures as productive, caring, responsible citizens. Today, more than 4,000 Boys & Girls Clubs serve nearly 4 million children and teens through Club membership and community outreach. Clubs are located in cities, towns, public housing and on Native American lands throughout the country, and serve military families in BGCA-affiliated Youth Centers on U.S. military installations worldwide. Clubs provide a safe place, caring adult mentors, fun and friendship, and high-impact youth development programs on a daily bases during critical non-school hours. Priority programs emphasize academic success, good character and citizenship, and healthy lifestyles. In a Harris Survey of alumni, 57 percent said the Club saved their lives. National headquarters are located in Atlanta. Learn more at [bgca.org/Facebook](http://bgca.org/Facebook) and [bgca.org/twitter](http://bgca.org/twitter).

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