

December 2010

## **BE SOMEONE WHO MAKES A DIFFERENCE TO CHILDREN IN NEED THIS HOLIDAY SEASON. MAKE AN END OF YEAR GIFT TO BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF THE UPSTATE AT [WWW.BEGREATUPSTATE.ORG](http://WWW.BEGREATUPSTATE.ORG)**

### **BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS ALUMNI NEWS**

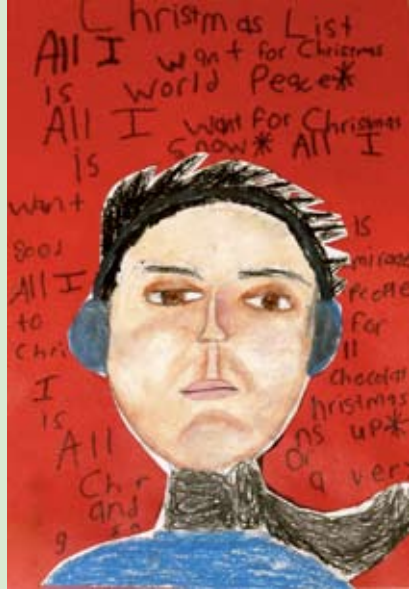
We had a chance to catch up with Boys & Girls Clubs alum **Quiante Jefferies** at the Spartanburg Youth Council's holiday breakfast last week. Quiante attended Boys & Girls Club every day after school from third through ninth grade, and she had plenty to say about how her participation in our programs contributed to her development into the successful young lady she is today. She says that her grandmother worked until after five each day and that Boys & Girls Club was "the only option for me and my family afterschool". Now a Senior at Spartanburg High School and member of Spartanburg Youth Council's Youth Voices, Quiante says Boys & Girls Clubs "inspired me to do as many things as I possibly could in high school".



Quiante was recently honored as an all-star cast member at the SC Theatre association competition and is also a member of the National Art Honor Society. At Spartan High, she is a member of Beta Club, Marching Band, Photography Club, the school newspaper, and serves as Vice-President of the Literary Club. Quiante attributes Boys & Girls Clubs with providing her first meaningful opportunities in the arts. Recalling our drama program at Park Hills, she says, "That's when I first fell in love with performance. If not for Boys & Girls Clubs, I wouldn't have gotten started in that." Quiante also got her start in photography at our Carver Boys & Girls Club. She remembers the Club displaying her photos at the Cultural Center and featuring them in ads in the Herald-Journal. "I didn't think they were good enough to display, but someone at Boys & Girls Club thought so."

Quiante discussed how arts afterschool kick-started her self-esteem and helped her learn how to reach her goals. She was concerned to hear about Boys & Girls Clubs' challenge to keep all of our doors open and our arts programs going strong in this difficult economy. "I really believe the arts open doors and enhance creative thinking and problem-solving, which are necessary to survive in a world that changes every day." She added that when she makes it big, she will give back to Boys & Girls Clubs and the arts in Spartanburg. Quiante has applied to NYU, the University of the Arts and Winthrop. She plans to study theatre and communications. Best of luck Quiante!

## **GREAT FUTURES START HERE**



Self-Portrait by Brooks Robinson, 4th grade, Chapman Elementary Club; Christmas Tree by Cierra Clowney, 5th grade, Park Hills elementary Club

### **BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS WISH YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!**



#### **CLUB MEMBERS TO PERFORM AT CHAPMAN CULTURAL CENTER**

Members of our Arcadia, Cleveland, and O.P. Earle Elementary Clubs will perform selections from *The Fabled Fourth Graders of Aesop Elementary* in the Black Box Theatre at the Chapman Cultural Center on Friday, December 10th at 7:15 pm. Fourth - sixth grade participants of our theatre program have been working hard all year under the direction of Boys & Girls Club drama instructor Ms. Heidi Fortune in preparation for this production. Special thanks to the **Spartanburg Little Theatre** and the **Chapman Cultural Center** for hosting our performance!

### **CLUBS ENCOURAGE FAMILIES TO READ AND PLAY TOGETHER**



Our Carver Jr. High Club hosted Family Read Night in collaboration with the school on November 30th. Club members, along with their parents and younger siblings, totaled 85 participants in all. Parent-Teen book club discussions were led by Carver Librarian Currie Renwick and Public Safety Officer Tyrone Johnson, and younger children enjoyed a read along with Emily the Clown. Our Carver Club was selected as a Walmart Foundation Bright Spot for Reading earlier this year.

On November 19th, our Park Hills Club hosted a Family Game night in partnership with the school. Over 25 families enjoyed an evening of fun, food and games. Pictured below, Brandon Neal and his grandmother enjoyed a game of Scrabble.



A big thanks to our local **Barnes & Noble** and their patrons for donating books and educational games for our Club members this holiday season. Pictured below, Barnes & Noble Community Relations Manager Sonja Pruitt has delivered over 1,000 books and games so far. Sonja says, "Barnes & Noble and our Spartanburg patrons are happy to lend a helping hand to Boys & Girls Clubs of the Upstate. We chose Boys & Girls Clubs as the recipients of our holiday book drive because we know what a GREAT program it is and it has such a great impact on the children in our community."

### **CLUBS DELIVER 1,000 CANS TO SPARTANBURG SOUP KITCHEN**

All of our Clubs joined forces to collect over 1,000 canned goods for Second Presbyterian Church's Soup kitchen in November. Club members complete at least one community service project per month as part of our Character & Leadership programs. Pictured right, Marquarius Simpson, a sixth grader from our Cleveland Elementary Club, unloads a box of canned goods at the Soup Kitchen.

