

## BE BOLD. BE BRIGHT.

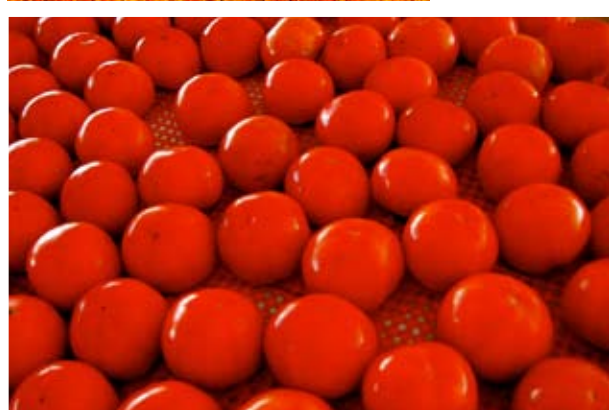


### BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS PHOTO EXHIBIT AND PERFORMANCES AT CHAPMAN CULTURAL CENTER

Be sure not to miss Boys & Girls Clubs' end of year photography exhibit and drama productions at Chapman Cultural Center. Our ImageMakers photo exhibit includes over 140 photos and will be on display from May 13th - June 27th. **Please join us at an opening reception this Thursday, May 13th from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. at the Cultural Center.**

The Boys & Girls Club **Drama Clubs will perform at 7:00 p.m. on May 18th and May 20th in the Black Box Theatre at the Chapman Cultural Center.** These will include "The Stories of Hans Christian Anderson and "You Say Tomato".

Our arts programs are funded in part by the **National Endowment for the Arts and the Mary Black Foundation.** Clockwise from left are photos by: **Deonte McKelvin, Jayshun Johnson and Mackenzi Scruggs**



### CARVER CLUB WINS WALMART FOUNDATION BRIGHT SPOT FOR READING AWARD

We are pleased to announce that our Carver Jr. High Club has been awarded \$10,000 from Walmart Foundation's Bright Spot for Reading Initiative for adolescent readers. Congratulations to our Carver members and staff whose hard work and service earned this honor!

Our Carver teens have displayed enormous commitment to academics, Club involvement and community service this school year. Mr. Rick Ferguson, our Carver Unit Director implemented a winning incentive program this school year in which 45 teens earned a Spring trip to Washington, D.C. by completing 100 hours of reading during Club time, 75 hours of community service, good behavior, and attending Boys & Girls Club at least 3 days per week.

The teens had fun as they learned about the history of our great nation in its' Capitol on the trip which occurred in late March. Their itinerary was packed with tours of over 20 museums and monuments including Ford Theatre, The National Museum of American History, and The National Portrait Gallery. In between all of these, they managed a visit to Baja Amusement Park as well.

The Walmart Foundation award will be used to enhance the Clubs' reading-rich environment and to help fund the end of the year incentive trip.

Mr. Rick Ferguson has directed the Club at Carver for four years and has worked with Boys & Girls Clubs for ten years. Prior to coming on staff with the Club, he worked with Spartanburg Public Safety. In addition to running a Great Club at Carver, Mr. Rick has managed truancy initiatives and transportation for our Clubs. You can see Mr. Rick driving teens around town evenings and weekends, working hard and long hours to keep teens safe, out of trouble, and engaged in their education and community. **Thank you Mr. Rick for your hard work and passion for youth!**

Pictured right, Shaira Fitzpatrick, a 7th grader, enjoys the Museum of American History and the group tours the Washington Monument.



## BE A LEADER. BE A WINNER.

Reasey Bou, our 2010 Boys & Girls Clubs of the Upstate Youth of the Year was honored at The State House in Columbia during Boys & Girls Clubs SC State Youth of the Year Celebration in April where she delivered this speech that tells about her experience with Boys & Girls Clubs.



"Hello, my name is Reasey Bou. I am from the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Upstate in Spartanburg SC. My parents strongly believe in education. My family moved to America from Cambodia when I was 12 years old, so I would have access to better education and more opportunity. But I did not feel the same way, I felt alienated from the community. When I first arrived in this country, I felt so scared because I was unsure about my new home and new language. This place that I called my new home was beautiful; full of wonderful things but I still felt so lonely."

"The first time I attended school, the kids made fun of me because I did not know how to speak English. I was one of the quietest kids in the class. I understood everything they said to me, but I could not talk back. I didn't know how to tell them that I wanted to be friends. I always wanted to ask thousands of questions but I didn't know how or where to start. This never stopped me from going to school because I believed school was the only place that I would truly understand life in America. Being American means engaging in the American way of life. While I was excelling academically at school, I still felt like an alien to my community."

"I first joined the Boys and Girls Clubs' Keystone Club at Spartanburg High School three years ago. It was the only club that was free. At the first meeting Mr. Greg told all of us that we were the leaders of the Club. We could run the club on our own because it was OUR club and OUR community. I fell in love with the Boys and Girls Club because it gave me a way to engage with my community. I always felt comfortable asking Mr. Greg any question because I was never afraid that he would laugh at my accent. He opened up a world of opportunity beyond my wildest dreams. I traveled with the Keystone Club members to the National Keystone Conference in California. Not only did we attend the conference, but Mr. Greg took us to the Getty Museum and taught me many things."

"I feel like he is my second father that helped me adjust to my new life and get involved with my community. He changed America from "new home" to "my home". The Boys & Girls Club is my home. My father, sisters and brothers, my place to learn new things and get involved. It is the place that changed the way my parents think of me. From just a girl to more than a girl. My parents believe when a girl become a lady she should just get a job and get married."

**"But Mr. Greg and the Boys & Girls Club believe in me; that I can be more than what I think. I can change my community to be a better place. Because of my Boys & Girls Club I no longer feel alienated from my community. I have found my confidence. My voice, my friends, my family. My home."**

Reasey graduates from Spartan High this month and plans to attend USC where she will pursue a degree in pharmacy. She looks forward to continuing volunteer work with our Clubs. Congratulations Reasey. We are so proud of you! Pictured above, Reasey discusses state government with Senator John L. Scott from Richland Co. and Mr. James Brown of Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands.



Above, CCS Board Member McCall Morehead recognizes 2009 NCAA National Champion Mallory Cecil.

### CCS TENNIS TOURNAMENT A HIT

The Country Club of Spartanburg's 2010 Pro Tennis Invitational was a great success! Thank you to all of our sponsors and patrons. The tournament raised over \$15,000 for Boys & Girls Clubs. A special thank you to the Country Club and the following lead sponsors and volunteers:

**JM Smith Corporation, Orthopedic Specialties of Spartanburg, Contec, White Oak Manor, Hometown News, Billy D's, BB&T, Dana Mason, Kirsten Miller, Merim Dunbar, Rob Sanborn, Tols Sanborn and Lisa Wilson.**

### BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS BLACK AND WHITE BALL

The Boys & Girls Clubs Black and White Ball was held on April 30th at the Radisson Inn. Fifth and sixth grade Club members enjoyed a night of dressing to the nines and dancing.

At right, members of our Chesnee and Park Hills Clubs show off their style.

