

Roxbury teen named Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston 'Youth of the Year'

E-mail | Print | Comments (0) Posted by Matt Rocheleau April 22, 2011 10:00 AM

Below is an announcement from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston:

At a peak weight of almost 300 pounds by his sophomore year of high school, Michael Creese said he had to choose, “between losing weight or a premature death.”



(Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston)
Michael Creese, 18, of Roxbury

"The supportive staff at the Boys & Girls Club pushed me, and the majority of my weight loss was due to practicing in the Yawkey Club of Roxbury pool," he said. "In order to bring change to others you must bring change to yourself."

Michael was named "Youth of the Year" by the [Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston](#), which serves over 14,000 children and teens across 10 clubs in Boston and Chelsea.

At the [Yawkey Club of Roxbury](#), the 18-year-old is known for his leadership skills. In his 10 years of membership there, he has served as President of the Keystone Club; participated in Life After The Club, swim team, Japanese class, debate club, young men's group, and choir; and has worked as a lifeguard and junior staff in the social recreation room.

"Michael's service and loyalty to the club is unmatched by any other current member," said Teen Director Shiona Botts. "He truly embodies the mission of Boys & Girls Club."

Michael has been a huge help to his parents, both of whom work long hours. Getting his driver's license was more than a teenage right of passage; it allowed Michael to transport his three younger siblings to church and school, and get to his junior staff job at the club. With the extra income from this part-time job, Michael is able to

contribute financially to his family. In addition, he understands the importance of a healthy lifestyle and set an example for his siblings by losing more than 60 pounds and staying active on the club swim team.

While managing his dramatic weight loss, he volunteered more than 65 hours in the past year, preparing meals at [Community Servings](#) in Jamaica Plain and tutoring younger club members. He has excelled in four AP classes as a senior at the [John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics & Science](#). He also received a distinguished award for environmental policy at a national science fair competition sponsored by the [Wentworth Institute of Technology](#).

“Regardless of my past, I understand that my education is important to my success. Growing up in a specific neighborhood is not going to decide my fate. I am responsible for my goals, dreams and aspirations,” he said.

Michael hopes to attend the [University of Massachusetts Lowell](#) next year to major in biology and pre-medicine, hoping one day to become an emergency room doctor.