



Makayla Pearson

“Boys & Girls Club wasn't just an after school program to me, it was a home away from home. Playing games with other staff and members made me go to my happy place, whether it was in the game room or down at the turf.

“I have been a Club kid for the past nine years. I've been going to the Dave Goldberg Family Branch every day since I was six years old. Now I am a fourteen-year-old freshman at Denfeld High School and still to this day my favorite memories were always at the Club.



“Being at the Boys & Girls Club helped to distract me from my parents' divorce two years ago. Even if it was doing homework or helping to pick up and tie skates at the ice skating rink, it was those little things that kept my mind away from issues at home. I quickly realized that I just wanted my parents to be happy even if it meant switching off between houses every week.

“While President of Torch Club at the Dave Goldberg Family Branch, I decided to implement a mentoring program between the teens and the kids at the Club. As mentee and mentor, we discussed our dreams and our goals, and what we thought a mentor was. Dylan Thortan was my mentee. He said, ‘A mentor is a friend. Someone who you can play with, someone you can depend on.’ Those words really resonated with me as it made me realize that I wanted to become a child therapist as a profession.

I would like to thank everybody who makes Boys & Girls Clubs possible for kids to get away from their problems. It is truly a home away from home.”

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