




Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Phoenix

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Press Release FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORE THAN \$3 MILLION RAISED AT BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF METRO PHOENIX STARS GALA; LEONEL CANO LEON NAMED 2017 YOUTH OF THE YEAR

PHOENIX (March 28, 2017) - The Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Phoenix (BGCMP) held its 17th annual “Today’s Kids, Tomorrow’s Stars” gala presented by title sponsor Universal Technical Institute, Inc., and core area sponsor Wells Fargo, at the Arizona Biltmore on Saturday, March 11.

The event honored Diane and Bruce Halle and the Diane & Bruce Halle Foundation with a “Champions for Collective Change Award” for being a collaborative charitable resource for BGCMP and the greater community.

Through the Halle’s generous support, along with hundreds of donors, the event raised record-breaking net proceeds of \$3.1 million to maintain after school and summer programs for more than 27,000 youth and teens at 13 clubs in Phoenix and the West Valley.

Highlights from the event:

- A bidding frenzy with the Halles set the stage for an explosive live auction including a travel package via private jet to Napa Valley and Meadowood luxury resort which sold twice for \$60,000
- A private home in Newport Beach, Calif., sold four times – each for \$45,000
- A trip to New York City including tickets to the Broadway hit, “Hamilton: An American Musical,” a Lady Gaga concert, and the U.S. Open Championship sold for \$90,000
- Buzz Sands and Sands Chevrolet continued their legacy of generosity with BGCMP by donating several live auction items, including a 2018 Chevy Tahoe or Corvette

The night also included a celebration of 13 Club Youth of the Year candidates who have been on a 16-week journey of team building, relationship and leadership development, presentation skills, and Toastmasters training.

The Ed Robson Family Branch’s Leonel Cano Leon ultimately took home the title of “BGCMP Youth of the Year.” Leonel, also known as Leo, has been a dedicated member to the Ed Robson Family Branch since it first opened its doors in 2008. Leo participates in all opportunities offered at his Club, and inspires the younger members by teaching art and dance, as well as coaching soccer. He plans to attend Grand Canyon University and aspires to be a visual artist for Disney or Marvel Studios.

CONT. ON PG. 2 

About the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Phoenix

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Phoenix provides after-school and summer programs in some of the Valley’s most deserving neighborhoods. Our programs focus on four key areas: Academic Success, Be Great-Do Good, Healthy Choices and Fun with a Purpose, providing youth with the tools they need to enjoy childhood and become successful adults. Last year, more than 27,000 youth and teens benefited from programs through our 13 clubhouses, community outreach services and Children’s Dental Clinic. For more information about the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Phoenix, like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BGCMP, follow us on Twitter, Instagram and YouTube @bgcmp or visit www.bgcmp.org.

In addition, the event educated attendees about the importance of donating. A recent study commissioned by BGCMP found that its 13 Clubhouses are a sound investment, providing numerous economic benefits for Maricopa County, as well as helping parents in low-income households keep their jobs. The study, conducted by the Seidman Research Institute and W.P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University, established that every dollar invested in BGCMP returns \$18.22 in positive economic benefits to the community.

“Our Clubs provide a safe haven after school by offering nutritious snacks and meals, equipment and activities to stay fit, and life-changing leadership and educational programs,” says Chief Executive Officer Marcia Mintz. “And with even more kids coming through our doors, the proceeds raised from our Stars event are critical to keeping our Clubs available to youth and teens just like Leo.”

About the Diane & Bruce Halle Foundation

The mission of the Diane & Bruce Halle Foundation is to create and implement collaborative philanthropy while working with our grant partners to multiply the impact of each investment we make in the areas of social justice, homelessness, hunger, human services, health and medicine, education, and arts and culture. For more information, visit dianeandbrucehallefoundation.org.

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