

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.



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Great Futures Start Here: Boys & Girls Clubs of America Awards Local Boys & Girls Club Teen with Recipe for Success™ Scholarship

Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County teens named Darden Scholar and receives \$3,000 college scholarship from Darden Restaurants, Inc. Foundation

Sarasota, FL, [August 1, 2011] – Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) has named three Sarasota county teens, Dalena Nguyen of the Gene Matthews Boys & Girls Club in North Port, Tevin Watts and Omar Woodard of the Roy McBean Boys & Girls Club in Newtown the 2011-12 Darden Scholars. They will receive a \$3,000 college scholarship each from Recipe for Success™ workshop sponsor Darden Restaurants, Inc. Foundation. The teens were three of 68 members selected as a BGCA Darden Scholar after participating in the highly interactive, college-readiness workshop.

Recipe for Success focuses on inspiring Boys & Girls Club members to pursue their dreams and set ambitious goals by introducing them to the possibilities of postsecondary education. The program strives to support Boys & Girls Club's mission of enabling youth to reach their full potential and achieve a great future. The two-hour workshop assisted the participants in exploring potential career paths and areas of study; provided tools and resources for academic planning; and helped them to develop financial management skills and research tips for scholarship funding sources. Workshop participants were also given insight on the importance of setting goals; balancing school, family and social life; and the impact social networking has on their lives beyond high school.

Tevin Watts attended Booker High School and plans to pursue Business Administration at Valencia Community College. He has been a member of the Roy McBean Club for five years and enjoys playing sports and socializing.

Dalena Nguyen graduated North Port High and will study Pre-Clinical Health Science at the University of Central Florida. She is a first generation college student and a bilingual student, fluent in English and Vietnamese. She has been a member of the Gene Matthews Boys & Girls Club member for two years and worked as Power Hour Assistant during her senior year. She is a member of the Key Club and enjoys art. Power Hour focuses on helping kids with their homework.

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Omar Woodard graduated top of his class from Riverview and plans to study Mechanical Engineering at Florida Agriculture and Mechanical University. He played football at Riverview for four years and ran track for two years. He is a member of Greater Hurst Chapel A.M.E. and the BGC Keystone Club. Omar has been a member of the Roy McBean Club for six years and assisted at the front desk of the Club his senior year. BGC Key Club focuses on building leadership skills and learning about giving back to your community.

“Darden believes in creating opportunities for others,” said Angela Woods, director of Darden Restaurants, Inc. Foundation. “Recipe for Success is designed to enable and empower youth to pave their own path to success by providing access to the tools and information necessary to navigate the process of postsecondary education.”

About Boys & Girls Clubs of America

For more than 100 years, Boys & Girls Clubs of America (www.bgca.org) has enabled young people most in need to achieve great futures as productive, caring, responsible citizens. Today, nearly 4,000 Boys & Girls Clubs serve some 4 million children and teens through Club membership and community outreach. Clubs are located in cities, towns, public housing and on Native American lands throughout the country and on U.S. military installations worldwide. They provide a safe place, caring adult mentors, and high-impact youth development programs on a daily basis during critical non-school hours. Priority programs emphasize academic success, good character and citizenship, and healthy lifestyles. In a Harris Survey of alumni, 57 percent said the Club saved their lives. National headquarters are located in Atlanta.

About the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County:

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County have played an integral role in the Sarasota County community for more than 40 years, providing daily programs and services to thousands of young people. The Mission of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County is to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

About Darden Restaurants, Inc. Foundation

The Darden Restaurants, Inc. Foundation (“Foundation”) is a private nonprofit corporation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and was organized to administer charitable funds for the benefit of communities. The Foundation’s sponsor is Darden Restaurants, Inc. (“Darden”). Darden (NYSE:DRI) is the world’s largest company-owned and operated full-service restaurant company with over \$7.1 billion in annual sales and approximately 180,000 employees. Its brands – Red Lobster, Olive Garden, LongHorn Steakhouse, The Capital Grille, Bahama Breeze and Seasons 52 – reflect the rich diversity of those who dine in its restaurants. Darden is recognized for a culture that rewards caring for and responding to people. That defines service for Darden. The Darden Restaurants, Inc. Foundation works to bring to life this spirit of service through its philanthropic support of charitable organizations across the country as well as the volunteer involvement of its employees. With more than 1,800 restaurants, Darden strives to have an enduring and positive influence on the communities it serves. For more information, please visit our website at www.Darden.com.

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