

09/15/10

Mona Dixon
2010-2011 National Youth of the Year

Five-year member of Boys & Girls Clubs of the East Valley (Tempe, Ariz.) **Mona Dixon** has been announced as the 2010-11 National Youth of the Year winner by Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

For much of Dixon's life, she and her family were in a constant state of change, moving from one homeless shelter to another in city after city. Her family was often separated on a daily basis to ensure that everyone had a warm place to sleep each night. Although her family received assistance to attain living space at one point, it was only temporary. These difficult and challenging experiences led Dixon to seek out a place that she could call "home."

Five years ago, Dixon found a place to call home when she joined Boys & Girls Clubs of the East Valley. From her first day at the Club, she took advantage of every available opportunity to teach younger children about the importance of being responsible, caring, productive members of society. To help ensure her family's continued stability, Dixon contributes to family income by working part time. She believes in turning setbacks in life into motivators to succeed and uses her story to inspire others.



2010-'11 National Youth of the Year:
Ramonia "Mona" Dixon

Dixon strongly believes in community service and is a member of Keystone Club, a leadership and service group for teens. She also organized food drives, maintained the park next to her Club and participated in "Read to Me," a volunteer program for children at a shelter where she once lived.

Last spring, Dixon graduated third in her class at Tempe High School with a 3.92 GPA. She was also captain of the basketball team and participated in the National Honor Society, Stand and Serve (a peer leadership group), Student Council and the Math Team. Dixon is currently a freshman at Arizona State University pursuing a master's degree in international retail management.

Congratulations, Mona!
