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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**OUTSTANDING BELLINGHAM TEEN TO COMPETE FOR BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF  
AMERICA'S STATE YOUTH OF THE YEAR HONOR**

Bellingham, WA, February 2010 – Vang Le is a true example of an extraordinary young man. At age 17, he has just been selected to compete against other Boys & Girls Club members for the Washington Youth of the Year title and a \$1,000 scholarship from the Reader's Digest Foundation. As the Youth of the Year for Whatcom County Boys & Girls Club, Le is among hundreds of local youth across the country recognized by Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) for his sound character, leadership skills and willingness to give back to the community.

Being named Youth of the Year is the highest honor a Boys & Girls Club member can receive. The title recognizes outstanding contributions to a member's family, school, community and Boys & Girls Club, as well as personal challenges and obstacles overcome. This program was founded over 60 years ago through the generosity of the Reader's Digest Foundation.

Vang is a bright, creative and unique young man. He has been a Bellingham Club member for almost ten years. Vang is someone who combines integrity, fun and passion in all he does. We are so proud of Vang and feel honored that he has been a significant part of our "club family" for so long. We wish him all the very best and know he will continue to amazing things.

"Vang Le is a wonderful recipient of this award. He has grown up in the Club and is now a leader and role model for all kids. He is a young man who has made the right choices, sometimes under trying circumstances. His future is limitless." said Lynn Templeton, Chief Professional Officer, Boys & Girls Clubs of Whatcom County.

If Le wins at the state competition, he will compete for the title of Pacific Region Youth of the Year and an additional \$10,000 scholarship. The five regional winners will advance to Washington, D.C., in September 2009, to compete for the title of BGCA's National Youth of the Year. The National Youth of the Year receives an additional \$15,000 college scholarship and is installed by the President in an Oval Office ceremony.

The Bellingham Boys & Girls Club, located at 1715 Kentucky Street, Bellingham, WA, is a youth development and recreation center for youth ages 6-18. Membership is \$30 per year. Please visit our website at [www.whatcomclubs.org](http://www.whatcomclubs.org) for information regarding all programs and opportunities we offer.

We look forward to hearing from you.