

SHH Wins State Honor 2nd Year in a Row!

Gino Binkert Named PA Youth of the Year by the Boys & Girls Clubs of America

Gino Binkert, a senior at Perry High School in Pittsburgh, was recently named Youth of the Year for Pennsylvania by the Boys & Girls Clubs of America!

Earlier this month, Gino competed with others from across the Commonwealth. Each club enters their "Youth of the Year" to give a presentation on their accomplishments and the impact of the Boys & Girls Club on their lives.

As you might imagine, all the teenager's stories are both moving and inspiring. Sarah Heinz House is honored to report that for the second year in a row, one of our members walked away with this prestigious statewide honor, that carries with it over \$9,000 in college scholarship money! Now Gino goes on to New York City, with representatives from all other states in the Northeast Region. There he will have the opportunity to meet some fantastic Boys & Girls club members from New England, New York, New Jersey and Maryland.

Gino credits Heinz House Program Director Bob Bechtold as being a tremendous role model over the years. Bob notes that Gino has carried himself with humility throughout this process--even being stunned when he won at the local level. When reflecting on this process and on the special friendship that he and Gino share, Bob said that he treasures the spontaneous, unplanned moments the most, where he and Gino got to know each other on a personal level.

We are grateful to Gino for being such a wonderful leader and kind person with a smile that lights up the room around him. We are also thankful for his family who has provided him tremendous support to make the right choices in life! Good luck in the Big Apple Gino. Know that several hundred people in the 'Burgh will be firmly behind you.

