



POP SUPERSTAR KATY PERRY INSPIRES DENVER CLUB MEMBERS

A few months ago, 50 Club members were surprised with an unexpected visitor. Singer and “American Idol” judge Katy Perry made a stop at the Jack A. Vickers Boys & Girls Club at the Nancy P. Anschutz Center in conjunction with her “Witness” Tour. Teens from six different Clubs had no idea that the pop star would be spending a few hours visiting with them.

Katy Perry has been partnering with Boys & Girls Clubs of America to encourage her fans across the country to get involved with their local Clubs. One dollar from every ticket purchased for the tour supports Boys & Girls Clubs. Perry’s goal for this campaign is to engage fans in meaningful ways and inspire the next generation to get involved in their communities.

“Boys & Girls Clubs, to me, is the most tried-and-true place for the community and young people. The Club provides a way for kids to hang out, get all their homework done, learn new skill sets and it gives them a sense of community,” shared Perry. “I wanted to take my spotlight and give a little more shine to Boys & Girls Clubs. Our world is constantly changing and we need to make sure we have safe places where we can all come together and be ourselves.”

Katy Perry was led on a Club tour by Deja, a senior

Club member, who provided an overview of how the Clubs make a difference for thousands of kids in metro Denver. Deja also had the opportunity to talk with Perry about an anti-bullying initiative that she led at her Club. Perry then hosted a question and answer session for the Club members where they discussed topics including social media, what it takes to make it as a singer and the importance of finding connections.

“**Boys & Girls Clubs, to me, is the most tried-and-true place for the community and young people.**”

— Katy Perry

“Kids are having a hard time figuring out how to stay focused in this world that is all about pushing information out through the internet. Having real experiences in real life, talking, socializing and having a sense of community is important,” said Perry. “Places like the Boys & Girls Club build all the social skills you need.”

At the conclusion of her visit, Club members were thrilled when Perry surprised them all with tickets to her concert at the Pepsi Center that night.

Katy Perry’s desire to shine a spotlight on the work of Boys & Girls Clubs and her encouragement certainly inspired the Club members to stay involved and keep giving back to their communities.

“If you have the opportunity to change the future, it’s going to be with kids,” said Perry.





\$1 MILLION RAISED AT ANNUAL BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS GALA!

On May 19th, more than 1,000 guests gathered to celebrate Boys & Girls Club members and raised a **record-breaking \$1,000,000** to support programs and services at Clubs throughout the metro Denver area.

The theme for this year's gala was "Be A Hero For Kids," and the event highlighted the Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year winners – outstanding leaders at Clubs around the metro Denver area.

RBC Wealth Management served as the presenting sponsor for this year's event, and Dan Ball, a Boys & Girls Club board member and RBC Wealth Management Senior Managing Director, spoke at the event.

"We're incredibly grateful for both the opportunity to help present this year's Boys & Girls Club Gala and to continue what has been an incredible partnership with one of our community's most valued organizations," said Dan Ball.

During the program, former Denver Bronco Reggie Rivers helped inspire generosity from the crowd, reaching historic fundraising levels for our Clubs. The evening's highlight was the speech by City and State Youth of the Year Winner Malachi Haynes (*see profile on page 3*), who shared his story and demonstrated the incredible impact that Boys & Girls Clubs has on kids in our community.

Thank you to all our sponsors and guests for celebrating our Youth of the Year winners and for ensuring our programming continues to impact thousands of metro Denver kids.

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CLUB MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: MALACHI

Eighteen-year-old Malachi is a shining example of how the Boys & Girls Club movement can help kids overcome obstacles and succeed in life. For a short period of time while he was growing up, Malachi's family didn't have a home, but with support from the Boys & Girls Club, he was never truly homeless.

Malachi joined the Club 12 years ago and it made a difference in his life on day one. "The Club lifted me up and alleviated any worries as soon as I stepped inside," said Malachi.

The Club has helped Malachi excel in all aspects of life. He has been on the honor roll every year since 6th grade. After completing the rigorous International Baccalaureate program at George Washington High School, Malachi will attend Colorado State University, where he will study kinesiology and sports science.

Each week, Malachi tutors underclassmen at school and leads a reading program at the Club. He also coaches basketball and is the peer leader for the Club's Play60 fitness program, which helps kids learn the importance of getting 60 minutes of physical activity every day. "I was once told that to be a leader, you must be the first to stand in line even when the line isn't yet visible," said Malachi.

Malachi's determination and academic success helped earn him the Boys & Girls Clubs titles of both Metro Denver Youth of the Year and Colorado State Youth of the Year.



I thank the Boys & Girls Club for allowing me to spend my time inside the Club, becoming a better person rather than taking my chances with all the risks that an unsupervised life brings. Boys & Girls Club saved my life in that sense.



- Malachi Haynes

Age 18

SUMMER LEARNING LOSS



As summer begins, many students will enjoy a couple months away from their education. While they may be having fun, many will return to school in the fall at lower achievement levels than when they left before break. This occurrence, known as "summer learning loss" or "summer slide," is a serious setback for students from historically disadvantaged groups.

A study from the *Review of Educational Research* found that students' achievement scores declined by one month's worth of school-year learning over the course of summer break. Students experienced declines in reading and math, with larger losses at higher grade levels.

Another study conducted by the *Social Science Research Network* in 2016 found that black and Latino students lost more learning during the summer months than their white peers. Combining this fact with the already existing opportunity gaps present in many school districts, it is clear that steps need to be taken to combat summer learning loss.

Helping to fill the desperate need for affordable and educational engagement, Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver provides summer programming from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. During this time, we provide Club members with access to ample educational opportunities to help kids keep and continue their academic gains.

The *Review of Educational Research* found that summer reading programs were an effective strategy to combat summer learning loss and low-income students benefited most from these types of programs. For example, the Clubs' Accelerated Reader program is designed to encourage reading comprehension and help level the playing field for all kids. Summer learning loss isn't just limited to reading – which is why Clubs also offer highly-qualified education specialists, STEM activities, computer lab access, cultural arts and more.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

METRO DENVER

Helping Kids. Building Communities.

Program Support Center

2017 West 9th Avenue, Denver, CO 80204

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A QUICK LOOK AT BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS' IMPACT:



93% of graduating Club members have a college or career plan.



Club members are **2x** as likely to express an interest in STEM careers compared to their peers.



On average, each Club member spends **6,125 minutes** reading at the Club throughout the school year.

YOU CAN GIVE KIDS THE ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME



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