

# Nashua Boys & Girls Club receives top honors

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NASHUA – The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Nashua has been honored with a national award for running the best overall program in the country.

The award for overall program excellence was presented at the Boys & Girls Clubs of America's 110th National Conference held recently in New Orleans.

It also received a \$5,000 donation from MetLife Foundation, which honors local clubs for innovative and effective programs to lead youth to successful futures.

The Nashua club was recognized for the 75 programs it offers its roughly 2,800 members in the areas of academic success, good character and citizenship, and healthy lifestyles.

"This award is one that few clubs receive and we are honored to be recognized on a national level for offering Nashua an outstanding program that fosters hope and opportunity for all the children we serve," Boys & Girls Club of Greater Nashua Chief Executive Officer Norman Bouthilette said in a statement Friday.

Bouthilette said the generosity of the club's donors and the business community is key to the club's success and helps to advance its mission.

"Being recognized for this award is an honor of achievement, success, community engagement and a reflection of our organization's culture to meet the challenges our young people face by offering innovative ways to deliver quality programs and services for our Club kids who need us most," he said.

Through the club's Power Hour homework help program, college mentoring program and various STEM programs, members are able to receive tutoring and are exposed to a wide range of educational skills and opportunities.

The club's Healthy Lifestyles program informs members of the benefits of regular exercise, making positive life choices, and preparing and eating nutritional meals.

Good character and citizenship programs include the Keystone Club, Torch Club, Junior Staff and Youth of the Year.

Karina Rodriguez, who is the Nashua club's 2016 Youth of the Year, said she participated in various programs during her 12 years as a club member. They include the Power Hour homework help, practicing public speaking with Toastmasters and the Keystone teen leadership group.

"Through these programs and my club experience, I have learned new skills and strengthened existing ones. These programs and experiences have shaped me into the well-rounded person I am today," she said.