

## **EXECUTIVE CLUB OF THE PRINCETON FAMILY YMCA ANNOUNCES 8th GRADE ESSAY CONTEST WINNER**

*Princeton, May 27* – The Executive Club of the Princeton Family YMCA is pleased to announce that Anna Verhaegen of Princeton, a student at Stuart Country Day School, is the first-prize winner of its inaugural Eighth Grade Essay Contest. The annual contest is designed to prompt and encourage thought among young people about character and personal values.



*Anna Verhaegen of Princeton is the winner of the Executive Club of the Princeton Family YMCA's inaugural Eighth Grade Essay Contest focusing on values and personal character. Verhaegen, who is fourteen years old and a student at Stuart Country Day School, received a \$500 savings bond, donated by the Bank of Princeton as the first prize winner for her essay "The Community Kid." Pictured with Anna are (left to right) Martin Mililli, President, the Bank of Princeton, David Sandahl, Chairman, Princeton Family YMCA, Kate Bech, CEO, Princeton Family YMCA and Millard M. Riggs, Jr., Chairman, Executive Club.*

This year's essay contest focused on one of the YMCA's four core values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility. Eighth-graders were invited to demonstrate their understanding of personal responsibility by submitting a 400 – 600 word essay in response to George Bernard Shaw's quote: "I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can."

In addition to receiving a \$500 savings bond, generously donated by the Bank of Princeton, Anna also won the opportunity to present her essay at the Executive Club's annual dinner held recently on Thursday, May 21, which hosted keynote speaker Juan Williams, a nationally respected news analyst, writer and journalist featured regularly on National Public Radio and Fox News.

Alexa Rangecroft of Lawrenceville, also a student at Stuart Country Day School and Lindsay Eberhart of Princeton, a student at John Witherspoon Middle School each received a \$100 savings bond for their essays which earned an honorable mention.

The Executive Club was founded in 1961 when local civic, business and community leaders determined that a forum was needed to promote fellowship and encourage financial support for the YMCA. Today, the Executive Club is for anyone who wishes to grow in mind and spirit through education and discourse, and proceeds from the dinner are used to underwrite the YMCA's financial assistance program that ensures programs are available to all who wish to participate.

Please contact the Princeton Family YMCA at 609-497-9622 for more information or visit [www.princetonymca.org](http://www.princetonymca.org) to read Anna's prize winning essay.

###