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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Katie Hammes Named Boys & Girls Club of Souhegan Valley's Youth of the Year

Kaitlynn (Katie) Hammes of Milford was recently named the Boys & Girls Club of Souhegan Valley's 2009 Norman Adam's Youth of the Year. Hammes is among hundreds of local Youth of the Year winners across the country recognized by Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BCGA) for her sound character, leadership skills, and willingness to give back to the community.

The Boys & Girls Club of America's Youth of the Year program was founded over 60 years ago through the generosity of the Reader's Digest Foundation. The Boys & Girls Club of Souhegan Valley Youth of the Year award is named after Norman Adams whose generosity supported the Teen Center at the Club. Adams, a long-time Milford resident, left a gift to the Club when he passed away, creating a lasting legacy that will benefit thousands of children in our community.

Hammes was chosen by a panel of judges for her outstanding contributions to her family, school, community, and the Boys & Girls Club. She is described as a "positive role model" and "excellent example and guide for the young children with whom she works" in several letters of recommendation. A member of the Boys & Girls Club of Souhegan Valley for four years, Hammes uses words such as "community, family, learning, leadership, and encouragement" when she describes her relationship with the Boys & Girls Club of Souhegan Valley.

"We are very excited to have named Katie as our Youth of the Year," stated Susan Taylor, CPO of the Boys & Girls Club of Souhegan Valley. "Her positive attitude, willingness to help, work ethic, and compassion makes her a great role model for all our members."

A senior at Milford High School, Hammes is active in the Riverbend Youth Company of the Boys & Girls Club of Souhegan Valley, the FIRST Lego Robotics League, the BAE Systems Women in Technology Program, and is a member of the National Honor Society. Hammes plans

pursue a degree in science and engineering after graduation. She lives in Milford with her mother, father and two siblings.

As the Club's Norman Adams Youth of the Year, Hammes will receive a \$500 scholarship from the James G. D'Amato Scholarship Fund of the Boys & Girls Club of Souhegan Valley to further her education. In addition, Hammes will compete against other Boys & Girls Club members for the New Hampshire Youth of the Year title and a \$1,000 scholarship from Reader's Digest. If Hammes wins at the state level, she will compete for the title of Northeast Region Youth of the Year and an additional \$10,000 scholarship. The five regional winners will advance to Washington, D.C. in September 2008 to compete for the title of BGCA's National Youth of the Year. The National Youth of the Year is eligible for an additional \$15,000 college scholarship and is installed by the President in an Oval Office ceremony.

In addition to Hammes, Aly McKnight of Amherst, Julia Arciere of Amherst, and Jessica Hatch of Milford were nominated for the Boys & Girls Club of Souhegan Valley's Youth of the Year award.

About the Boys & Girls Club of Souhegan Valley

A nonprofit organization, the Boys & Girls Club of Souhegan Valley strives to create opportunities that enhance the quality of life for youth of all backgrounds, with special concern for those that need us most. Our programs and services promote and enhance the development of boys and girls by instilling a sense of competence, usefulness, belonging and influence. Visit www.svbgc.org for more information.