



American Youth Soccer Organization Region 644– Weston

AYSO 644 WESTON ANNOUNCED THE WINNERS OF 2 SCHOLARSHIPS THIS WEEK

AYSO 644 Weston proudly continued its long tradition of awarding college scholarships to deserving high school seniors. AYSO announced the winners of the Guillermo A. Diaz Garcia AYSO Scholarship and the AYSO Lifetime Scholarship in front of the winners, their families and special guests. Each of the student athletes will receive \$1,000 to help them pay their college expenses.

The first award is in memory of Guillermo Diaz, who passed away in 2007 at the age of 17. He was born in Puerto Rico and the youngest of three sons to Miguel Ariel and Angie. Guillermo moved with his family to Weston when he was eight years old. He loved his home in Florida and in Puerto Rico. He was a young man who found great joy in the simple pleasures of life. He was full of energy, loved being on the soccer fields and a joy to be around. He exemplified the AYSO philosophies and was always available to help out on the soccer fields. He was an amazing volunteer in our soccer program. Guillermo, and the Diaz family, will always remain a part of our AYSO Family.

All athletes who applied needed to show that he/she shares Guillermo's passion for helping others, by being an active volunteer recognized not only by an AYSO staff member but also from a school teacher regarding his/her character and commitment to community service. AYSO believes that supporting and endorsing these positive attitudes contribute for a better community. AYSO has been presenting this award annually since Guillermo's untimely passing and this will be the 10th scholarship awarded in his name.

In 2008 a flamboyant tree, a native species of Puerto Rico, was planted by his parents and AYSO members at the Weston Regional Park nearby the soccer fields, in memory of Guillermo.



2008: Miguel Ariel and Angie, parents of Guillermo A. Diaz Garcia, and some AYSO members planting the flamboyant tree at the Weston Regional Park nearby the soccer fields.

Today, it has blossomed into a beautiful tree, and continues to be the place where each year the winner of the Guillermo A. Diaz Garcia scholarship is announced.



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2018: the flamboyant tree planted in honor of Guillermo A. Diaz Garcia at the Weston Regional Park nearby the soccer fields. (IMG_4505)



Alan Dagen, AYSO 644 Weston Regional Commissioner, and Miguel Ariel and Angie, parents of Guillermo A. Diaz Garcia, near the flamboyant tree planted in honor of their son, announcing the winner of the scholarship of 2018. (IMG_4415)



State Representative and former AYSO volunteer Richard Stark brought one of his kid's old AYSO trophies! (IMG_4426)



City Commissioner Byron Jaffe (on right) shared his thoughts about community and family. (IMG_4433)



Community activist and candidate for City Commission Mary Molina-MacFie, shared some of her thoughts and her roots in Puerto Rico. (IMG_4442)

This year the winner is Maria Santori. She has volunteered in the VIP program, which is dedicated to challenged kids. She says it has inspired her to pursue a teacher career focused on children with special needs. She is a motivated volunteer who always goes above and beyond what is required of her. She is a well-rounded individual who makes an effort to contribute to the world around her, always with a kind and caring disposition. She was recommended by AYSO members and one of her teachers at Cypress Bay High School in Weston. AYSO wishes her all the success in this path, that she may continue to make such a difference in other people lives.



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Maria Santori, winner of the 2018 Guillermo A. Diaz Garcia AYSO Scholarship, and Miguel Ariel and Angie, parents of Guillermo A. Diaz Garcia. (IMG_4453)



Maria Santori and her parents, and Miguel Ariel and Angie, parents of Guillermo A. Diaz Garcia. (IMG_4493)



Maria Santori and her parents, Miguel Ariel and Angie, parents of Guillermo A. Diaz Garcia, and Alan Dagen, AYSO 644 Weston Regional Commissioner. (IMG_4508)



From left to right: Richard Stark, Alan Dagen (AYSO 644 Weston Regional Commissioner), Maria's sister, Mary Molina-MacFie, Maria Santori (winner of the 2018 Guillermo A. Diaz Garcia AYSO Scholarship), Angie Diaz



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Garcia, Hector Schmidt, Miguel Ariel Diaz Garcia, Blas Belmonte, Ross Sabbath, David Lyons, Ivan Aristazabel, Sandi Hoyos and Byron Jaffe. (IMG_4456)

The second scholarship is the AYSO Lifetime Scholarship. This award is given for senior high school athletes who have played for 10 or more seasons and are currently enrolled in the 2018 Spring Season. He/she needs to have the spirit of having fun playing soccer and exhibit positive attitude and good sportsmanship. The application needs to be endorsed by an AYSO staff member and a previous coach.

This year the prize was awarded to Dylan Clark. He has been a part of AYSO Recreation, Select, State Game and National Game programs for over 11 years and has volunteered a significant amount of time to each of these different programs. He was chosen because he demonstrated the true philosophy of what an AYSO player should be on and off the field. Besides also volunteering his time to assist with additional AYSO activities, off the field he is an exemplary young man who is mature, well-mannered and has impressive work ethic. He has been recommended by AYSO members and coaches. AYSO wishes him all the success in this new phase of his life and hopes that he continues to inspire others in such a great way!



Dylan Clark, winner of the 2018 AYSO Lifetime Scholarship, and Alan Dagen, AYSO 644 Weston Regional Commissioner. (IMG_4465)



Dylan Clark, winner of the 2018 AYSO Lifetime Scholarship, and Blas Belmonte (AYSO Assistant Regional Commissioner) and Bruce Farrington. (IMG_4481)

It was a great evening, with participation of important members of our community. AYSO is very proud of the impact of those initiatives in our community and looking forward to the next edition in 2019.



Hector Schmitt and Alan Dagen, AYSO 644 Weston Regional Commissioner. (IMG_4487)



David Lyons, AYSO 644 Weston Registrar, and Sani Hoyos. (IMG_4500)



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What is AYSO?

AYSO Region 644 is one of the hundreds of regions that make up the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO), which is a national association that was founded in 1964 and is located in Hawthorne, California. With over 500,000 boys and girls between the ages of 4 - 18 years old and 250,000 volunteer coaches, referees and administrators in 46 states, AYSO is the largest volunteer soccer organization of its kind.

In 1988, West Broward AYSO changed its name to AYSO Region 644 serving the communities of Weston, Pembroke Pines, Sunrise, and all of the other neighboring cities. In these twenty-five plus years, we have grown from 300 youth players to approximately 3,750 players in fall and spring leagues, adults in various divisions, playground for 2 years old and up, and VIP program for challenged kids. AYSO provides programming for thousands of families every year.

AYSO has 6 philosophies that their players should learn and practice, not only in soccer, but in life:

- 1- ***Everyone Plays***: it's important to improve and to become better in what we do every day, but it's also important to give everyone a chance to enjoy sport and have fun!
- 2- ***Open Registration***: there's no requirements to register at AYSO. The organization offers different groups based on age and recreational or competitive playing. There is also a program for emotionally and physically challenged individuals, so that everyone may play!
- 3- ***Positive Coaching***: learning skills and techniques is very important, but so it is learning how to enjoy practicing sports!
- 4- ***Balanced Teams***: AYSO wants to make sure everyone will learn, play and have fun!
- 5- ***Good Sportsmanship***: winning is important, but how someone plays may be even more important, even if it doesn't end up winning.
- 6- ***Player Development***: It is important that each player improve. AYSO provides top level training for the youngest kids when they are most capable of developing into future stars!

More information at www.ayso644.org.

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