

Good Morning. My name is Mary Wilson and I am a member of the Boys & Girls Club of New Britain.

What does "the club" mean to me? Well the club is a building of dreams, hopes, and opportunities. It all started at the age of nine when I began to learn so much having to do with life, and how you should have hopes and dreams in order to have opportunities one day. The club taught me many qualities having to do with being the best person I could be. Some of these qualities are as follows: skill, determination, commitment, and courage. The Boys and Girls Club of New Britain gave me a chance to venture out into different activities such as dance, communications and leadership programs. The very first time I realized my love for dance was when I began attending the Boys and Girls Club of New Britain. I can remember it like it was yesterday. I was skipping around the Boys and Girls Club as I came to a halt at the sound of my favorite song. It was the summer of 2000 and the Boys and Girls Club dance team was practicing to Christina Aguilera's song "Genie in a Bottle". I was so amazed at how uniformed and energetic the dance team was that I just knew I had to be apart of the "Madness". Although I was not able to dance that exact same day, I made it my business to join the team the next chance I had. Finally, after waiting what seemed to be an eternity I actually got my chance to dance with them, and the rest was history! Now dance is my life I eat, drink, breath and live dance. None of this could have been possible if it were not for the Boys and Girls Club of New Britain. In the past several years, the Club has given me so many different opportunities to display my talent. In October of 2006, we would be blessed to dance on the stage that many would only dream of stepping on. The stage of "BET" 106 and Park. It was amazing and none of it could have been possible with out the sponsorship of the Club. We also formed an official dance team in the year of 2005 named "Hip Hop's Madness" because deep down in our hearts we believe we belong to Hip Hop! By the Boys and Girls Club exposing me to dance; I was able to find a relationship with other types of dance such as ballet, jazz and modern. I was then able to dance with a professional dance company called "Albano's Dance Company" where I performed in "The Nutcracker". In order to do such things we had to have a balance of skill, determination, commitment and courage. Before going to the Boys and Girls Club, I never really had a love or an excitement. I was just an "ok" kid who attended school and that was it. Nevertheless, you see the beauty in the Boys and Girls Club is that they can take an "ok" kid and turn them into a great kid. I had a hope and dream

and the Boys and Girls Club gave me an opportunity to become it! A great poet once said, "There is only one path to success and that's the one with opportunities". In addition, the Boys and Girls Club of New Britain will continue to give me that path.