

MIDDLE SCHOOL CANDIDATE

# Daisy Garriga

Age: 12 years old

Club: Boys & Girls Clubs of Hartford at Trinity College

School: R.J Kinsella Magnet School of the Performing Arts

7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Grade Club Tenure: 2 years



*Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability:*

**1. What is your favorite Boys & Girls Club activity/program and why?**

My favorite Boys & Girls Club activity/program is S.M.A.R.T. Girls. I say this because growing up I struggled with school. I was always bullied because of my height and weight. Kids disliked me for the way I looked. In school they would call me big foot, big feet, and Daisy the clown. S.M.A.R.T. Girls showed me not only how to love myself, but how to be confident with my body. Now I know that I am beautiful. I am leader, role model and most of all a smart girl!

**2. What does the Club and the S.M.A.R.T. Girls mean to you?**

The Club and the S.M.A.R.T. Girls program have impacted my life tremendously. Attending the amazing program sessions opened my eyes, and helped me focus in school more—an area that used to not be such a positive place. Going to the Club is like another home to me. Some kids are happy and some of the kids are sad, but I feel that it is my responsibility to turn those frowns into smiles. Everyone has different challenges in life, some people don't even have families. This is why being a part of the Club community is amazing. Suicide, depression, and anxiety are taking people's lives every day, but if a kid knows that someone's arms are open and that they can share, it makes a difference. The Club, S.M.A.R.T. Girls, and programs like it gives kids like me the chance to prepare for our future. I have learned from my mistakes and know that I can do anything and be successful. When I walk through the Club doors, I leave the negative behind and take on the responsibility to live, love, learn, and know that anything is possible!