



City of SANTA CLARITA Teen Hero

The mission of the Neighborhood Empowerment Safety Team (NEST) is to collaborate and facilitate education and prevention programs that create alternatives to gang involvement and ensure Santa Clarita is safe, family-centered and gang free.

NEST is comprised of city staff, law enforcement, local agency representatives, and community volunteers who coordinate a community effort.

Know a youth who would benefit from NEST programs? Want to volunteer or learn more? Call Anthony Martinez for more information at (661) 286-4006.

Frances Maytee Valdes

Congratulations Frances Valdes for being selected as a Santa Clarita Valley Teen Hero.

Santa Clarita's newest SCV Teen Hero, Frances Valdes, is a 12th grade student at Golden Valley High School. Frances was selected by the Jo Anne Darcy Library staff, Gabriela Ibarra and Cindy Rodriguez.

"Frances is an amazing young person with big ambitions," Rodriguez said. "She was chosen as a Teen Hero because in spite of her living situation, she looks to the future with lots of hope."

Frances has dealt with a lot of adversity during her high school years. During her senior year her parents decided to move to Texas. Frances was faced with making a difficult decision: move with her parents or stay in California. Frances decided to stay so she can finish high school and attend college. She moved in with her disabled grandmother and aunt and realized she had to support herself. She applied for the City's Youth Employment Services (YES) program and was selected to work at the JoAnne Darcy Library. According to Ibarra, "Frances has performed in an extraordinary way. She is very polite, responsible, and always willing to help."

When asked what obstacles Frances has overcome, Frances said "Being separated from her parents was difficult.

Financial problems were troublesome, but she was able to help her family by working at the library." Gabriela Ibarra said "She has overcome hard times on her own, having to make tough decisions which resulted in learning to live as an adult at an early age."

When asked who has influenced her life, Frances said "Mr. Williamson, my biology teacher, has been a strong influence in my life. I appreciate and apply his positive quotes and stories presented in the classroom to my own life."

After the YES program ended, Frances decided to volunteer for the JoAnne Darcy Library. She also volunteers for a non-profit organization that offers free tax service to senior citizens and for ROTC marathons. In her spare time, Frances enjoys taking Brazilian dance classes.

Frances' plans for her future include graduating from high school, attending College of the Canyons, transferring to a University, and graduating with honors.

Congratulations Frances for being a Santa Clarita Valley Teen Hero!



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