



# 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.

## Saira Garcia

Congratulations, Saira Garcia, for being selected as a “Santa Clarita Valley Teen Hero.”

Santa Clarita’s newest Teen Hero, Saira Garcia, is a 12th grade student at William S. Hart High School. She was selected by Counselor Joshua Nowak.

According to Nowak, Saira was chosen as the SCV Teen Hero because of her hard work and perseverance.

“Saira is involved with many school programs and projects and is a great role model for her fellow students,” Nowak said. “Saira assisted with the accreditation process for the school for Western Association for Schools and Colleges and she also tutors her peers struggling with math.”

Saira has dealt with life obstacles being in a single parent home. In addition, her family has moved six times since she started high school. She knows how hard her mother works to keep the family together and she takes responsibility for her siblings such as helping them with homework. Her main focus has been to obtain good grades.

“My mother has been my role model,” Saira said. “Although our family struggles financially, my mom has always been there for me.” In addition to her mother, Saira also gives credit to Carolina Dozal, Recreation Leader II at the City of Santa Clarita Newhall Community Center.

Carolina convinced Saira to join track, which has changed her life considerably.

When asked what activities she is involved with, Saira said that because she joined track she has gained new friends and has become more involved in school activities. In addition, her grades have improved. She is a part of the Safe School Ambassadors program and last year Saira tutored students in French. She currently has a 4.0 grade point average, and will graduate as an Academic Honor Scholar.

Saira’s goals for the future are to attend college. Participation in the Hart High School AVID/REACH program and challenging herself academically with numerous honors and Advanced Placement classes have prepared her to meet this goal. Saira has applied at both the University of California in San Diego as well as Point Loma Nazarene College which is a private college. She has plans to become an Engineer or possibly a Certified Public Accountant.

**Congratulations Saira for being a Santa Clarita Valley Teen Hero!**



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