

IDRA Coca-Cola Valued Youth Program

Congratulations to our 2013 Essay Contest Winners!



High School First Place

YESENIA VILLARREAL

12TH GRADE • SOUTH SAN ANTONIO HIGH SCHOOL • SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

"Since I started tutoring, I have grown more patient, and many have said I seem more caring. I have grown with the children and have seen them excel in their work. I enjoy working with them and seeing their reactions when they learn something new... Being in the Cola-Cola Valued Youth Program has helped me think about my future and what I want to do with my life."



High School Second Place

ANGELICA CAVAZOS

11TH GRADE • ODESSA HIGH SCHOOL • ODESSA, TEXAS

"The Coca-Cola Youth Program is a great program. We tutors are teaching our tutees everything they need to know and what we know. I loved all my little kindergarteners. I hate that the end of this year I'll have to stop tutoring them. It just kills me. I don't think you all will understand why I would hate to leave. These kids run up to me and hugged me every day that I go."



High School Third Place

HEATHER PEREZ

11TH GRADE • SOUTH SAN ANTONIO HIGH SCHOOL • SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

"Since I became a tutor in the Coca-Cola Valued Youth Program things started to change for myself. Things were not just about me, but it was now about my tutees and me. Just the feeling of seeing them every day was such an inspiration, because not only was I glad to see them but they were also glad to see me. Just getting the chance to tutor the children strengthens me in every perspective."

High School Honorable Mentions

STEVEN MARES – 12TH GRADE
SOUTH SAN ANTONIO HIGH SCHOOL • SAN ANTONIO

ELAINE OVALLE – 11TH GRADE
ODESSA HIGH SCHOOL • ODESSA, TEXAS

Scan this code to see the full essays and learn more about the IDRA's Coca-Cola Valued Youth Program!



www.idra.org



Middle School First Place

LUIS P. ACOSTA

8TH GRADE • DR. JAVIER SAENZ MIDDLE SCHOOL • LA JOYA, TEXAS

"The Coca-Cola Valued Youth Program made me a better individual all around. I used to be a big troublemaker who would not care about who I hurt, what grades I got or how rude I was to everyone around me, including teachers and my parents... I always believed that I could never do anything right. Every time I tried my best in whatever I did at school or at home, I failed... The Coca-Cola Valued Youth Program has transformed me into a smart, responsible, caring and respectful individual not only within my school, but out in my community and at home... This program has guided me into even thinking of my educational goals beyond high school."



Middle School Second Place

MARÍA DEL ROSARIO ZUÑIGA

8TH GRADE • DR. JAVIER SAENZ MIDDLE SCHOOL • LA JOYA, TEXAS

"Life changed for me the first week of school this year. Our counselor informed me that I would be placed in a program called the Coca-Cola Valued Youth Program... My hopes and self-esteem went up by a lot. I was no longer the girl that was looked at by teachers as always failing. I was going to be somebody in life, and it started now... As the weeks and months went by, the checks started coming in, and it was a true blessing for my family and me. I started focusing more on my classes and made sure I was passing them. My attendance improved because having my own job didn't mean I had to go and look for one to help out my family at home. I also was encouraged to pass my class because I wanted to become smarter for my elementary tutees."



Middle School Third Place

PEDRO RAMIREZ

8TH GRADE • DR. JAVIER SAENZ MIDDLE SCHOOL • LA JOYA, TEXAS

"Every day in this program is a blessing to me... the Coca-Cola Valued Youth Program... gives students like me an opportunity to shine and become better and more responsible individuals while at the same time getting paid. That's why when I go to the elementary for tutoring, I feel like I have God in my heart, and He gives me the potential and the love to go teach my tutees. I have also seen the success my students have displayed in their learning."

Middle School Honorable Mentions

JOSÉ LUIS ARRELLANO – 7TH GRADE • ANN RICHARDS MIDDLE SCHOOL • LA JOYA, TEXAS

STEPHANIE CANTU – 7TH GRADE • IRENE M. GARCÍA MIDDLE SCHOOL • LA JOYA, TEXAS

ALICIA GONZALEZ – 7TH GRADE • J.D. SALINAS MIDDLE SCHOOL • LA JOYA, TEXAS

KRYSTAL JOHNSON – 7TH GRADE • ABRAHAM KAZEN MIDDLE SCHOOL • SAN ANTONIO

ELIZABETH MIRANDA – 8TH GRADE • DR. JAVIER SAENZ MIDDLE SCHOOL • LA JOYA, TEXAS

ROBERT MORALES – 7TH GRADE • ROBERT C. ZAMORA MIDDLE SCHOOL • SAN ANTONIO

HERIBERTO QUINTERO – 8TH GRADE • DWIGHT MIDDLE SCHOOL • SAN ANTONIO

DANIELLE RAMIREZ – 8TH GRADE • CÉSAR E. CHÁVEZ MIDDLE SCHOOL • LA JOYA, TEXAS

CRISTINA VALDEZ – 8TH GRADE • MEMORIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL • LA JOYA, TEXAS