

East Bay Community Vision

Local stories from the pages of Vision Hispana Newspaper



Chabot College student and scholarship recipient
Eduardo Martinez

Local Hero

By Lizbeth Gonzalez

Eduardo Martinez is a 19 year old who moved from Nicaragua by himself in March of 2007. Martinez returned to the U.S. to achieve his long time dream to have a good education and to obtain a PhD or Masters degree. "I wanted to pursue my dream of obtaining a bachelors degree and going to higher education in universities like Berkeley and Stanford or Ivy league schools," said Martinez.

The Guardian Angels fight street crime, courage and entrepreneurship are recognized, and Lizbeth Gonzalez writes about a hero in her college classroom.



These local stories are featured in the current issue of Vision Hispana now on the street. This newsletter gives you a quick look at current stories in our community and invites you to share your comments with Vision Hispana.

Saludos,
Elena Miramar

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Leader of Angels

How much money would someone have to pay you to patrol the streets late at night in the highest crime areas in the East Bay? Would you want to be paid extra every time you have to deal with somebody who has a gun? Or would you do it for free, volunteering your personal time to protect innocent people from crime? That's exactly what the

Guardian Angels have been doing since 1979 when the first chapter was formed in New York.

Cristina Fernandez is the chapter leader of the Oakland Guardian Angels. Born and raised in Oakland, the 39 year-old is the first Latina leader of a Guardian Angels chapter in California. She leads a volunteer group of about fifteen men who give their free time to protect the innocent on the street. They don't carry any weapons, but they are armed with handcuffs and many years of martial arts training.

Cristina and her team patrol in any neighborhood where they are requested to be in. When asked about the courage it takes to

Eduardo was born in the Bay Area and moved back and forth to Nicaragua until the age of eight when his family settled in Nicaragua. In his childhood he saw the struggles of his mother. "During those ten years I been in Nicaragua, I seen how she had to work really hard," said Martinez.

Martinez 's mother Claudia Martinez became his inspiration and motivation to overcome obstacles and struggles because like many students Martinez faced money problems. "I really wanted to quit last month," said Martinez. "I'm struggling too much because I'm in debt and I felt I couldn't make it. With his stress because of debt he began to remember his mother and his dreams. He remembered the struggles his mother faced and motivated himself to look forward...see the entire article in our May 17th issue or soon at www.VisionHispanaUSA.com

-- Lizbeth Gonzalez is a student at Chabot College in Hayward. She is also part of the Puente Project, which helps high school and college students achieve their academic and career goals.

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patrol high crime areas late at night, Cristina says that the first question people ask her is, "Are you crazy?" But she says that she doesn't look at it that way. "Why should I sit back and keep complaining about what's not being done - I need to do something about it," she asserts.

Cristina says that she had a lot of anger before joining the Guardian Angels. "These young men going off to war and not returning to their families and yet we have these young knuckleheads on the street taking advantage of the freedoms they have and not caring about what's happening. It really upset me," she says. "I'm going to get out there and do something about it and put something positive into people's lives," she adds.

In addition to patrolling the city, the group is involved with the community in a number of ways, including talking to kids at schools about drugs and gangs. Cristina is the mother of two sons. She says that, "People think it's impossible to raise two boys in Oakland and not be on drugs or be in gangs - but it's not impossible to bring up kids out of Oakland who turn out really great...see the entire article in our May 17th issue or soon at www.VisionHispanaUSA.com

Valentía recompensada

La comerciante Rosalva Diaz ha superado dos grandes retos en su vida, uno de ellos fue el haber salido de una relación abusiva, historia presentada recientemente en Visión Hispana. Rosalva está dentro de un programa para mujeres que buscan escapar de relaciones abusivas, desarrollando seguridad y confianza. Rosalva es también una sobreviviente de diabetes y, preocupada por la creciente obesidad infantil, está buscando formas para educar a la comunidad sobre opciones alimenticias saludables y está ofreciendo jugos y licuados saludables en "La Verbena Juice Bar and Café" en el mercado público de Fruitvale en Oakland.

Rosalva ganó recientemente el reconocimiento "The Indie Awards" presentado por la fundación OneCalifornia. Ella ganó el premio "Neighborhood Dynamo," el cual es diseñado para personas que mejoran su vecindario al organizar a la comunidad, embelleciendo sus calles, mejorando la seguridad o promocionando eventos.

"Rosalva es una inspiración y estamos muy contentos de conocerla aunque sea un poquito," dijo Erin Kilmer-Neel de la fundación OneCalifornia. "Ella conmovió a muchos y estamos muy orgullosos de darle este premio."

Los premios Indie fueron creados para concientizar a la comunidad acerca de como los hábitos de compra

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Visión Hispana

Newspaper is one of the most recognized Hispanic publications in the East Bay. Its unique community focus makes it a valuable resource for local residents and an effective marketing tool for local business. Published since August 2003, Visión Hispana is distributed to homes, businesses and numerous community locations. Contact us at 510-865-6274 or 510-384-7239.

impactan a nuestra comunidad. Cada uno de los premios nos ayuda a recordar como los negocios locales engrandecen una comunidad. La fundación OneCalifornia lleva a cabo actividades educativas y caritativas a fin de estimular el desarrollo de las comunidades, eliminar la discriminación, promocionar viviendas asequibles y aliviar crisis económicas para las personas de bajos recursos de las familias de Oakland y del área de la Bahía de San Francisco.

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Toxcatl Ceremony del Señor de Chalma on Saturday, May 31st. Sunrise ceremony at 6:00am and dance performance at 10:00am. Dance performance also on Sunday, June 1st at 10:00am. Fruitvale Public Market, De la Fuente Ave., Oakland. Call Mixcoatl Arts and Crafts at 415-341-4191. Free event.

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