



Washington Street Foundation

Newsletter

JULY 2011, VOLUME 26

Living In The Present by Mizty Soria, 9th grade

*Living in the present
Forgetting the past
How I've forgotten all that has lasted
Now living in the present
Living my life
Everything has passed on so fast
Looking into the future*



The picture: This dress is a tradition dress from Jalisco, Mexico. It weighs about 4-5lbs and we dance with it for about 3 minutes straight. It was my first time performing this dance and I was extremely nervous. I had 3 weeks to prepare for the dance and in the videos I saw myself lacking on the skirt movement.

Roadrunner School Pulls Together

by Meyla Milian-Sanchez, 7th grade

Roadrunner Elementary recently suffered a great loss. One of our janitors, Mr. Mike Ledford, passed away suddenly. This has had a great impact on everyone at our school, especially the teachers. But we all got through it. Now we are having a student vs. staff softball game in memory of him. We are going to have a concession stand and cheerleaders. I'm very excited! I hope that everything turns out great. Rest in Peace, Mr. Mike Ledford.

Getting Involved in High School

by Aaron Vargas, 10th grade

Getting involved in high school is always a good way to make new friends and to get to know your teachers more than you already do. You should join a club that you like, and if you like a certain sport, try out for it. It is always good to play a sport or to join a club. It keeps you out of trouble and you can do what you like to do. High School has many different clubs. If there is not, then you start your own club. So get involved and stay active.

Candy Curse

by Avery Lomayestewa, 10th grade



*When the moon is full
and night is young,
find a tree where a
candy was hung.
Hang a candy to see a
treat,
but do not hang any-
thing that's neat!
A terrible curse will
lay upon you.
Eyes of candy and a*

*life of blue,
never returning to the life you once knew.*

*You'll transform into a creature of night,
giving anyone around a terrible fright.
Living a life full of hate and dread,
it be better just to be flat-out dead.
A sight to see in this state of matter.
Making every creature scatter.
Is the candy moon all full of flatter.
Meet all the creatures that are here and there.
You might see a candle, a grim, or a balloon in
air.
They aren't harmful, but rather misunder-
stood.
Not entirely evil or perfectly good.
Helpful yes, but trustworthy no.
Made to be friends and worthy foes.
Something that you'll never show.*

*Get use to this and never cry,
but be glad that you'll never die.
A life is a life and you can't complain,
despite all of the wretched pain.
Not too good it seems, but that's okay.
Have a great night and a relaxing day.
The candy curse will leave you this way.*

The Story of Jaffet's Life

by Jaffet Ortega, 7th grade



I was born in Phoenix on December 2, 1998. I have two twin brothers, 6 year olds, Jared and Samuel. My father, Alfonso was born in Mexico; he has 1 sister and 2 brothers. My father is a systems programmer for satellites.

My mother was born in California, and has 1 sister and 2 brothers. My mother is a social services professional who works with the mentally disabled.

Basketball and Soccer are my favorite sports to play because they are both fast paced games. In basketball I play both a forward and usually the point guard position. I go to Roadrunner Elementary School and am in the 6th grade. I am applying to be at Madison Meadows

for middle school next year. My favorite subjects are reading and writing. I enjoy reading for fun away from school, and enjoy reading science fiction. I enjoy writing as it is easy for me.

My favorite hobbies are Play Station 2 and 3, and enjoy war games and shooting ranges. Also the Wii, which stimulates movements and play with my brothers dancing games. My favorite food is pancakes/eggs/bacon and sausage. I like playing the guitar and it is my favorite instrument. My favorite fun thing to do is amusement parks, and Universal Studios Orlando is my favorite park. I enjoyed the museum of natural history that we went to for a foundation event. I like California as most of my family is there and my aunt and grandmother live there too.

Things I Know To Be True "Transformers" - Group C

Soccer is the best sport in the world.
Each person on the planet – all 7 billion of them – are unique in their own way.
My mom is nice.
My dad works hard.
Mountain View Elementary has a cool mascot, Hank.
The best job in the work s is to be an actor.
We need to take better care of the environment.
There is intelligent life on other planets.
Albert Einstein was the smartest person even born.
It's easier to go through life with close family and friends to be there for you as you travel through life's twists and turns.
- by Vinder Lopez, 8th grade

*Things I know to be true
The first and most driving one is life is fair
I know that if I want something
I have to work for it
I know that life isn't easy
I know that just because life isn't easy that I can't be optimistic
I know that I am fourteen years old
I know I have three annoying little sisters
I know that I want to sleep
I know that I want a nice job
But unfortunately I don't know what that job is.
- by Jorge Manzanares, 9th grade*

First thing I know to be true is that I am a boy who turned 13 years old.

Red is the color of my Nike's and is my favorite color. School just ended and now I'm on summer break. I love to play basketball. Another thing I know to be true is that I wear hats.

Music is my favorite. My sister loves music too. Lastly, I like to wear music tees.

That's it about me.

- by Damien Higginbothan, 8th grade

I know my name is Sajid
Did you know my favorite word is velocity?
I know my last name is Camacho
Did you know I love nachos?
I know my favorite NBA team is the Heat
Did you know Lebron James has big feet?
I know my favorite color is red
Let me ask you something are zombies dead?
I know my favorite sport is basketball
Even though I do take some hard falls!
I know I have spiky hair
But when I grow up it just might not be there
But do you know what I just don't seem to care!
I know I go to King's Ridge School
Trust me it's not that cool!
I know my favorite number is three
Did you know at Zumies its buy one get one free?
I know my favorite show is the Simpsons
- by Sajid Camacho, 8th grade

On May 13th...

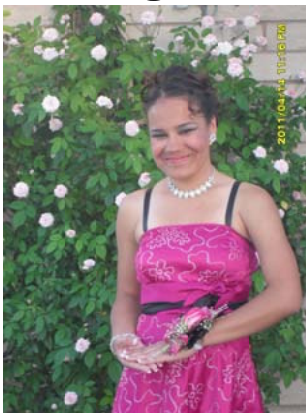
by Lizbeth Olague-Sillas, 7th grade

On May 13, 2011, Mountain View's 6-8th graders went to a trip to Disneyland. Of course there were rules throughout the year: No ISS or OSS (in school suspension or out of school suspension), no more than 5 tardies, no more than 5 absences. Of course I didn't miss a day, so I went on the trip. We had to be on school grounds at 3:45am to check in. 4:30am was the time buses were leaving and I woke up at 4:10am, 15 minutes to get ready. My mom dropped me off on time by 4:30am. I was heading to my bus. The buses were the greyhound kind. Anyways, I saw my mom all red and with watery eyes and my sack lunch and Gatorade. She kissed me a good night and to have fun.

The trip to Anaheim, California was long, but we finally go there. We took our 3 hour class about "imagineering", tested the rides, then we were sent off to explore California Adventure until 5pm. We then went to Disneyland and had fun, but with my family in my mind.

We arrived on school campus at Mountain View Elementary at 6:30am. Our parents were glad we came back safe. This was an amazing, crazy experience we all had.

Getting To Know Me by Briana Davis, 12th grade



Hello everyone, its Briana from the oldest group. I'm currently a junior at Moon Valley High School, which does make me a MV rocket. As a student there I am involved in our dance program, and to be honest I didn't like the class in the beginning. I was around some freshman that still acted like little kids. Then I realized that I couldn't blame them,

it's a new atmosphere for them. Anyways, later in the year I grew to like a few of them and let it be known, I'm going to miss them once this year's over. The 28th and 29th is or was our dance show depending on when this article which is our final for the class. We have two dances for my class a jazzy or hip hop kind if one, and a lyrical. Personally I enjoy the lyrical the best the song we are doing for that dance is "BRAVE" by Leona Lewis. This song is inspirational but also shows that you have to be brave and if you love someone fight for it. No I don't mean go and pound someone's face in, but I mean work for it, show that you are

Our Trip To The Food Bank

by Hector Miranda Castro, 10th grade

Anytime you help anyone whether it be your friend, family or mentor it always makes you feel great and that's how I felt after helping St. Mary's Food Bank. Helping was difficult at the beginning and I kept messing up going from job to job, but towards the end I got the hang of it. At times I felt like giving up but I didn't want to do all that work i did for nothing. I knew I had to keep going because there are people that really need the help. I would want some one to aid me through the hard times like the people that need the food are having. Helping out was also tiring , but after the break we had in the middle I was ready for another round of box stacking, moving, taping, wrapping, and marking. At the end of that long tiring day the "Thank You" we all got from the workers made it worth while! It was an amazing experience, and I can't wait until I do it again. I hope next time it will be all the groups together so we can all work hard and have fun!

worth the love. The other song we are doing for the show is "Let's Get Loud" by Jennifer Lopez. Which is also a great song, it's about being yourself and having fun whenever. Everyone loves having fun and more or less of the fun is done with your friends and family.

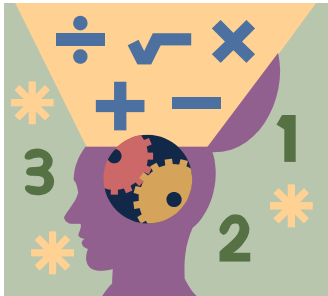
Almost everyone knows my brother Anthony. , so to everyone who is wondering, here's the best update about Anthony I can give you. Anthony is doing well in school, and he's enjoying himself in the dorms. But there isn't much else I can say. Though my big brother is only at ASU West I haven't see much of him lately, and I miss him. He's been busy with school.

On the 16th of April, yes the same day as our meeting, is Moon Valley's prom, and I'm so excited for it. My dress is pink with silver glitter on it. Also I'm only going with friends, but most of them maybe seniors. The perks of being in my math class are that I'm with seniors for the whole class period, and I've grown to be friends with most of them. Though the theme of the prom is Hollywood, our prom is at the space center.

Before I close this article I wanted to just thank all the mentors, students, and mostly Barry and Carmen for the time each of you have put into this program. My life has truly been changed because of it.

No Summer Slump

by Michelle Delillo & Laura Blakesley, mentors



Summer is fast approaching and all teachers know that kids are on break for two and a half months...and with many students, so are their brains! So.....being that we are both in the education field we were discussing what kind of information we could pull together that

might be fun yet somewhat educational. So.....here it is....a list of websites that we have come across that can be both of those things! Summer is coming soon...don't let that summer slump claim the knowledge you have worked so hard to build the last 9 months!

Try out these websites: clayyourself.com, collegeboard.com, scholar.google.com, sparknotes.com, easybib.com, quizlet.com, funbrain.com, starfall.com, coolmath-games.com (blockerz is the best!!!), pbskids.org and coffeebreakarcade.com

And for parents who would like to create worksheets and games:

esl-kids.com

senteacher.org

readinga-z.com

ferr.org (AMAAAAAZING!!)

You Are Amazing

by Patrick Blakesley, mentor

There is no doubt in my mind that you are Great! I know you are an amazing person. When you believe that yourself, there are all sorts of amazing things you can accomplish.

Recognizing yourself as the great person you are, is not easy and it takes practice. It's slow going at first, because it is something new for you. But once you begin to realize all the great things you are capable of doing, nothing will stand in your way of you achieving you goals in your life.

You don't need to go out and buy up a self-help library and spend the next 10 years reading all the volumes. All you need to do is accept yourself for you. Stand up and be still in your own truth. Whatever place you are at, accept it. Build on it. Improve it. Live it to it's fullest.

There is nothing more damaging than negative self-talk. It rips and shreds at every square centimeter on your body, in your mind and in your heart. Nothing good will every come from it. So stop! Find your greatness inside and begin to use it.

You are an amazing person. I know that - do you?

I Don't Know Why

by Mirina Higginbothan, 9th grade

In front of many people, I get very shy,
But everybody thinks of me as outgoing
And honestly I don't know why.

I like the color yellow
It makes me feel very mellow
Although I also like light blue, like the sky
But then again, I don't know why.

I really like the Vans shoe brand.
At my school it is quite a trend.
I really like the pair I have on, but they are so
hard to tie
Quite frankly, I have no idea why.

At school I really like to doodle.
My drawings range from demented hearts, ugly
flowers and random noodles.
Yesterday during social studies I do recall drawing
a pig's sty
Yet again, I don't know why.

Pizza is my favorite food.
Pizza makes me feel better when I'm in a bad
mood.
For some reason I have been craving a salty large
fry.
This is killing me, and I don't know why.

Hot Topic is my favorite store
I love going back for more
The next shopping spree I'm going to get a neck tie
Oh jeez, I really don't know why.

I will support Snooki when she becomes president.
She will make everybody tan, including the elderly
residents.
I hope people will vote for her, she sure has mine.
But why would she run for president? I sure don't
know why.

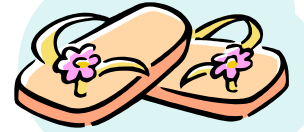
This poem was very long.
I hope I didn't do this presentation wrong.
So adios and good-bye.
Gasp! Did I really just say adios? Wow and I
don't know why.

Think Twice... by Susan Atkinson, mentor

I had the opportunity to sponsor an event that Ken Whisenhunt was scheduled to speak at. It wasn't a big event, only about 30 people, so it felt personal. For those of you who don't know him, he is the Head Coach of the Phoenix Cardinals. Ken is one of the most humble speakers I have had the opportunity to see in a long time. He explained to us that he was always honest with his players, and that he gives them a positive feedback whether they win or lose each game. I am not

much interested in Football, but I was listening to a man who had a lot of very impactful things to share with us. He took a team that was at the bottom of the barrel to the Super Bowl. Although they didn't win, he was and is still very proud of his team although they had a tough year. Throughout his speech he spoke about not getting "ruffled" by the media, he said he keeps his players on track and keeps them focused on the "team" efforts, not only their own. There was a guest

there that spoke about watching Ken spend time with his kids and that he is also an amazing role model for his boys. If you have the chance to listen to a speaker who you don't know of or isn't speaking about something you are interested in, please think twice-you might learn something and be more inspired then when you walked in.



Dance Isn't All About Dancing

by Kaycee Torres, 11th grade



When it comes to dancing everyone automatically assume people, music & a dance. There is always more behind it. You learn a lot of things from it.

You learn more than one type of dance as well. Every dance out there started from one form of dance, and kept getting modified as life went on. Also when you go to a dance concert there is so much work behind it. Costumes is one of the biggest things. You don't get to just pick out any type of clothes that you think look beautiful. There has to be meaning behind it, it has to flow with your moves and the song. I always thought you get to just have fun in dance, but ever since high school I have learned that there is much more to it. My favorite type of dance is modern. It used to be hip-hop because that is mostly all that I used to see, but now I know all different types and modern just seems to fit me the best. I have my fourth dance concert coming up in May. I can not wait for it. I also have my second dance that I choreographed that will be in it. Dance is a way to express yourself and without it I don't know how I would be surviving high school.

May Book Club

by Sarah Saltmarsh, mentor



There are six members in our book club, 3 mentors and 3 mentees. Red Umbrella by Christina Gonzalez is the book that our book club selected for the month of May and we all loved it!

It is the tale of a 14-year-old girl's journey from Cuba to America as part of Operation Pedro Pan—an organized exodus of more than 14,000 unaccompanied children, whose parents sent them away to escape Fidel Castro's revolution. The main characters are suddenly plunked down in Nebraska with well-meaning strangers. Lucía and her brother struggle to adapt to a new country, a new language, a new way of life. The Red Umbrella is a moving story about the true meaning of home.

We met at one of the mentor's homes, ordered pizza and discussed our thoughts about the book. All three mentees were able to personally connect to Lucia, the main character in the story. The book led us to discuss the expectations that are placed on young Hispanic girls and the importance of family. This is the first book that we have read by Christina Gonzalez but we will definitely be looking for more of her stories to read together.

In A New York State of Mind by Rebecca Waldron-Miller, mentor



My friends and I each turned 30 years old within this last year, and to celebrate all that we've accomplished and how far we've come in the 15+ years that we've known each other, four of my closest

friends and I decided to go to New York City. I LOVE to travel, and have been to many different states and countries, but this was my first time to The Big Apple. It's been a dream of mine to go to New York since I was a young girl. Perhaps the endless Broadway musicals that I grew up singing in my home, or years of watching the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade and seeing the gorgeous NYC buildings in the background, or maybe it was the iconic movie *Breakfast at Tiffany's* that spawned my love for The City That Never Sleeps, but I've been dreaming of this trip for a long time, so I had great expectations. So, we planned our trip and saved our money for months, and even with my high expectations, it did not disappoint.

We were there for five days and filled every minute with something 'New York-ish': we shopped in Soho (window shopped), ate pizza in Tribeca (a LOT of delicious pizza), spent the day walking around Central Park, got caught in a parade (seriously), maneuvered the subway like experts, got lost (but not nearly as much as we thought we would), saw an amazing Broadway musical (*Promises, Promises*), ate the most delicious Chinese food, walked across the Brooklyn Bridge, spotted multiple celebrities (and resisted harassing all of them), visited the largest Macy's in the world, and walked with my head tilted upward in awe of the beautiful buildings enjoying every moment of every day.

I very much encourage you to start saving your money and start planning a dream vacation to celebrate an important date in your life... perhaps you'll be in NYC to celebrate your college graduation!



“Salsa Ildi” A New Adventure by Ildi Schmidt, mentor

I believe that everything happens for a reason. Losing my job after 14 years is a life changing experience. After sending out countless resumes, having only 2 job interviews and still being unemployed, I decided to start up my own business.

I have been making fresh salsa for many years. It is a friend and family favorite and has been requested for many family gatherings.

Salsa Ildi LLC was formed in March 2011. This was no easy process. I needed to get 2 different permits, a food handlers' managers' card and all the necessary business paperwork. I now sell my salsa at various farmers' markets on Saturdays and Sundays. My salsa is on the shelves at Tempe's Farmers Market. I am currently working on doing more markets during the week. I am also working on creating a roasted chipotle salsa because at this time I have only a hot and mild variety.

On April 2nd I participated in the Tempe Salsa Challenge. After 20,000 people and 16 gallons of salsa, I can say it was an experience! The requirement of the contest was to bring at least 13 gallons of salsa. The challenging part of the requirement was that it could not be pre mixed, the in-

gredients needed to be put together at the event. I chopped and prepared all the ingredients at the kitchen and had to store them separately, transport them separately and of course keep them at a cool 41 degrees or less.

At the event I was mixing salsa and my daughter was spooning out the samples. As fast as she got the samples ready, they were gone! I received some good feedback so hopefully I will get more business because of the event.

When I first lost my job, I thought my world would come to an end. I discovered that because I do not have a college degree my chances of finding a good job are alot less than if I did have a degree. All of our mentees need to understand this. Through our hard work and dedication, all our mentees will have a college degree. This will give them the most chances in life to be successful!

My world did not come to an end, I just started down a different road and am finding that owning a business and making it successful is a challenge I gladly accept. This road is a lot of fun!

College Bound by Andrea Petrof, mentor

Being the first in my family to go to college and graduate is a huge accomplishment that no one can take away from me. I am the second oldest with two younger siblings. For me, not going to college was not an option. From the time I was in junior high, it was expected of me that I would further my education. So, by my junior year I was looking at schools in and out of state. Being the first to go the college route- I was clueless as to what I was doing. I learned by watching my friends- how to apply- what tests I needed to take- meeting with my guidance counselor. It was a crazy world of essays and paperwork.

My senior year I visited ASU with a friend of mine and her mom. We flew from CA to tour the campus. It was surreal to me- the dorm rooms, the huge campus, the diversity. I grew up in a small town so Tempe was a completely new world to me. I had to apply here!! By Spring, I had my acceptance letter and I was set on

where I was going. Three of my friends were all going to ASU as well- one being my best friend at the time and we would share a dorm. College was hard- I never really had to study in high school- it came naturally to me, but college was different. Instructors were unusual, books were huge and costly, I actually had to study for tests and go to class and sit in labs. What was I thinking? I took summer classes to get credits out of the way. College was expensive and my student loans were piling up. I graduated in 3 1/2 years with my B/A in Communication and Minor in Business.

Looking back now- college for me was a time of self acceptance, identifying who I was and what I wanted. It allowed me to be independent, self evolving and free spirited. I had the time of my life in college and it set me on my path to my future, my career and my family.



What Do You Want To Be When You Grow Up? by Andy Chen, mentor

Have you been asked this question? I remember in many of our monthly meetings, we would ask the mentees to answer this simple question.

Growing up, I had an interest in computers and electronics, so when it came to choose a college major, I decided to pursue a degree in Engineering. I wanted to become an Engineer!

I ended up going to Purdue University (in W. Lafayette, IN) to pursue a degree in Electrical Engineering Technology. After college, I landed a job here in Phoenix, at Intel Corp. as a Component Design Engineer. My job involved doing simulations on chip layouts (to see if they worked as designed). Initially, the job was very interesting, but after six years of sitting behind a computer all day, I decided that I wanted to make a change in my life. Throughout the years, I had always thought going back to school for an MBA (Masters of Business Administration), so I finally went ahead with this idea, and applied to a few schools. I

choose to study at a school right here in the Valley - Thunderbird School of Global Management. After my first year, I did an internship at American Express (the credit card company), and ended up getting an offer to work for them after my MBA. The job was great at first - it was a new environment, and I had new responsibilities. After a few months though, it quickly turned into the same thing I was doing at Intel - sitting behind a computer all day. I also started to dread going into work each day - that's another story! So it was time for another change! Notice a theme here?

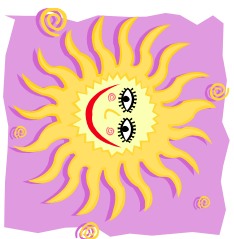
My next "destination" was back to school, but this time, as a staff member. I got a job working in the school's Admissions Office, as a student recruiter. In my role, I get to work with all types of people - people with different cultural, profession, and academic backgrounds. Each day is a completely new experience, and having a chance to meet these people is very inspiring for me, as I get to hear about their life stories. My

job also involves quite a bit a travel - something I love to do. So yes, I get paid to travel and see the world. This past fall, I had the opportunity to visit 11 countries, and 35 different cities.

I had never planned to work in higher education, but it has turned out to be an amazing "unplanned" path. People always tell you to do what you love. I can say that I love my job now, and actually look forward to going to work each day! I'm often asked if I will stay in this role/industry, and my response is always, "I don't know." I absolutely love what I am doing now, but I'm always open to new experiences, and new challenges, so who knows what I may be doing a year or two from now? I guess I'm still growing up...

Here are a few recommendations:

- Challenge yourself to try new things - you may end up discovering something you love doing.
- Make goals, but definitely keep your options open.



Washington Street Foundation

Our current students, mentors, group leaders
and graduates....

GRADUATES			
STUDENT	COLLEGE	STUDENT	COLLEGE
Martha Castro	N/A	Y-nhi Nguyen	Glendale CC
Mitzi Miranda	ASU West Graduate	Israel Soto	N/A
Carlos Sanchez	N/A	Ivan Ibanez	N/A
Alex Chavez	Southern Nevada CC	Anthony Davis	ASU West
Alisa Duderija	Paradise Valley CC	Mariela Ramirez	ASU West
Tania Ibanez	ASU		

GROUP A GROUP LEADERS: LAURA LIBMAN & SUSAN ATKINSON

STUDENT	MENTOR
Rakell Verdugo	Ildi Schmidt
Nereyda Borquez	Susan Atkinson
Briana Davis	Laura Libman
Kaycee Torres	Andrea Petrof
Willow Herber	Vicki Guffey
Courtney Laycock	Regan Schwartz
Moises Lopez	Mike Lofton
Adam DeVerger	Scott Steinhagen
Angel Camacho	Gina Trotter

GROUP B GROUP LEADERS: JON COURV & RYAN JENSEN

STUDENT	MENTOR
Sadaf Aayar	Audra Boyd
Mitzy Soira	MariLaura Boldini
Hector Miranda Castro	Linda Triolo
Armando Durazo	Ryan Jensen
Philip Gough-Stone	Russ Goodman
Avery Lomayestewa	Andy Chen
Elizabeth Ramirez	Danette Cheney
Aaron Vargas	David Dodge

GROUP C GROUP LEADERS: JOE LIBMAN & PATRICK BLAKESLEY

STUDENT	MENTOR
Sajid Camacho	Bruce Trushinsky
Mariah Martinez	Michelle Delillo
Teguasia Harris	Ghemi Disu
Damien Higginbothan	Patrick Blakesley
Mirina Higginbothan	Kari Brill
Giselle Jaramillo	Linda Azlin
Jorge Manzanares	Renee Brodt
Guadalupe Martinez	Kimberley Grant
Rosa Martinez	Laura Blakesley
Alyssa Ramirez	Tassi Castillo
Vinder Lopez	DJ Burrough

GROUP D GROUP LEADER: BARRY LIBMAN

STUDENT	MENTOR
Lizbeth Olague-Sillas	Becca Waldron-Miller
Felipe Alvarez	Anthony Polk
Michael Baldenegro	Danielle Johnson
Jerry Hernandez	Linda Liguore
Meyla Milian-Sanchez	Sarah Saltmarsh
Jaffer Ortega	Charlie Sonneborn
Daisy Mendoza	Caren Stehl
Mina Rodriguez	Sarah Goddard
Vianey Torres	Eron Boes
John Truong	Joe Carella

