



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.

Maria Sanders

Congratulations, Maria Sanders, for being selected as a “Santa Clarita Valley Teen Hero.”

Santa Clarita’s newest Teen Hero, Maria Sanders, is a 12th grade student at Bowman High School. She was selected by Bowman Principal, Robin Geissler.

According to Geissler, Sanders was chosen as the Hero of the Week because of her hard work and perseverance.

Maria has dealt with life obstacles such as growing up without a mom and dad. “I was four or five years of age in the foster system thinking everything was ok, and it wasn’t,” Maria said. “After leaving the foster system at the age of 18 I got pregnant. Having my baby girl has changed my life a lot. I make everything happen for her. She is the reason why I’m going back to school to become a Registered Nurse.”

“My aunt, Christlyn, has had a huge impact on my life,” Maria said. “She has been there for me since my birth, always providing me with positive energy and knowledge.”

Maria’s 14 year-old cousin plays for the JETS in Lancaster. “I help his mom with the Spirit Gear for the team,” Maria said. Maria is participating in both English and Math intervention classes. She also hopes to participate in the Associate Student Body (ASB) program soon. In the fall, she will be taking a Regional Occupational Program for Pharmacy Assistant classes saying, “I feel this will help me obtain some medical knowledge as well.”

Her plan for the immediate future is to graduate from Bowman High School and then attend College of the Canyons and study to become a Registered Nurse. “Personally, I will continue to be the best mother I can be to my daughter,” Maria said. “I want to show her the positive path of life.”

Congratulations Maria for being a Santa Clarita Valley Teen Hero!



SPONSORED BY:
City of
SANTA CLARITA **NEST**
Neighborhood Empowerment Safety Team

