



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.

Christopher Collier

Congratulations, Christopher Collier, for being selected as a "Santa Clarita Valley Teen Hero."

Santa Clarita's newest Teen Hero, Christopher Collier, is an 8th grade student at Rio Norte Junior High School. He was selected by the Rio Norte Junior High School teaching staff.

Rio Norte staff members tell us Christopher is an amazing young man. He is a role model to others and a friend to all. He has shown strength and wisdom beyond his years in dealing with life's obstacles including the death of a sibling. He should be recognized for his phenomenal spirit and sincerity.

According to teacher Erin Swanson, Christopher is a young man with a huge heart, "Christopher is always trying to improve and do his best. He manages to cheer his friends up when they are down, and he always tries to help. Christopher elevates those around him, even me. I am grateful to have him in my classroom this year," said Swanson.

Teacher Stephanie Sosa said, "Christopher is an active participant in English class. He engages in thoughtful and perceptive discussions that show he has a deeper understanding of themes and symbolism within literature. The obstacles he has faced definitely influences his perceptions of the world around him, and when he puts forth effort, his work reflects a high level of competency, which I am thrilled to be a part of. He is a caring individual with the capability and potential to achieve

high goals. His classmates respect him as well and often turn to him for guidance in group work."

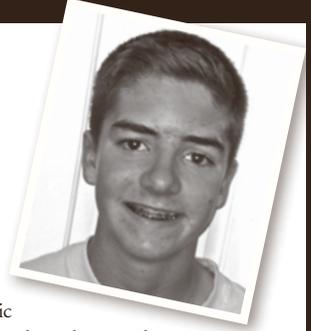
Christopher's Math teacher, Kyra Smith said, "Christopher is a true joy to have in class. His charismatic charm can lead a class effortlessly, and he always has a smile on his face. He knows how to read people and has something positive to say no matter the circumstances. When he applies himself, lessons look easy and he excels in his studies. I'm glad to see Christopher nominated as the Rio Norte SCV Teen Hero."

"My mother has had a profound impact on my life," Christopher said. "She has always been there to support me and for that I am thankful."

Christopher tells us he enjoys biking with friends, snowboarding, riding motorcycles, and wake boarding.

Christopher's future goals are to attend the University of California in Los Angeles and to pursue a career as a heart surgeon.

Congratulations Christopher for being a Santa Clarita Valley Teen Hero. Happy Birthday too!



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Neighborhood Empowerment Safety Team

