



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.

Brandy Coontz

Congratulations, Brandy Coontz, for being selected as a “Santa Clarita Valley Teen Hero.”

Santa Clarita’s newest Teen Hero, Brandy Coontz, is an 11th grade student at Saugus High School. She was selected by school counselor, Salim Raza.

“Brandy has overcome years of disabling issues,” Raza said. “I believe Brandy deserves this award because she is now successfully managing school and her home life with stamina and strength. This has impressed everyone that knows her and she now does things that she would have normally avoided in the past.”

There are many obstacles and challenges that Brandy has dealt with in her young life, which over time, have affected her self-confidence and self-esteem resulting in a life style of extreme solitude. In recent months, Brandy has chosen to leave that all behind and she is developing into a stronger person clothed with strength and determination.

Brandy saw her need for change, not only to survive but to live life fully. Standing beside her are

her dedicated parents. “They have been the most supportive through these difficult times,” Raza said.

Because of the issues Brandy has dealt with in the past she has not participated in many activities. Noteworthy, however, is the fact that she made the journey to Modesto to attend a “Glee” Cast event where she was able to enjoy seeing several of its stars singing and performing in a variety show. Glee is the story of a high-school Spanish teacher who becomes the director of the school’s Glee club, hoping to restore it to its former glory. An encouraging group, which we all need to benefit from.

As a testament to Brandy’s newly found strength, she has plans to one day attend a junior college and then move on to a four year university.

Congratulations Brandy for being a Santa Clarita Valley Teen Hero!



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Neighborhood Empowerment Safety Team

