

# Latino Leadership Council Client Impact Stories – YOUTH

**2024**



## **Ashley**

When we first met Ashley, she had little motivation to go to school due to her struggles with self-esteem. She was a very shy and quiet young person who needed someone to hold space for her to be vulnerable and be her authentic self. Our Youth Promotora, Julia, began to work with Ashley by providing 1:1 mentorship along with referring her to therapy. Her family signed up for the Parent Project in the Fall of 2023, and Ashley and her little sister began to participate in Entre Amigos. Now Ashley wakes up with a boost of energy ready and prepared to go to

school! Ashley is constantly keeping the family motivated to register for events, resources, and services to continue that emotional and familial growth. She is a completely different girl! Entre Amigos and the Parent Project boosted her outlook on life. Even her mother's emotional and mental health has improved by seeing her little girl begin to thrive. One person's decision to seek support has helped this entire family begin to understand each other and strive together.

*"I can now have a conversation with [my daughter], we can talk about her struggles, and her Self-Esteem has been boosted!"*

**2023**



## **Santiago**

Santiago came to the US a little over a year ago after a perilous journey through the Darien Jungle and 9 countries to arrive in the US in August 2022. Unfortunately, Santiago was not welcomed at his new school and was severely beaten and hospitalized by cruel schoolmates. The school district was unable to resolve his case, leading his mom to put him in a new school where he was still struggling to make friends and socialize with other children due to all the trauma he had encountered over the last couple of months. Thankfully, things are finally turning around for Santiago after joining Entre Amigos where he has actively participated in many of our events and is always so bubbly and willing to help despite everything he has been through. He joined our youth team and other youth on our annual TRTA backpacking excursion in Lake Tahoe, where he got to experience many firsts: first-time in Tahoe, first-time seeing snow and first-time backpacking. Santiago

had such a great experience, one of the first things he told his mom when he got back home was, *"I have so many friends!"* Santiago has been embraced by not only our youth team, but his Entre Amigos peers as well and it warms our hearts to finally bring a positive impact to his life after all that he has endured at such a young age. Santiago's mental health has been greatly affected by all that he has experienced, but he is currently receiving therapy through the LLC and is being taught coping strategies as well. We are excited to continue to see Santiago grow and overcome the hardships he has faced.

## 2022



### **Mariela**

Our youth team first met Mariela in our Parent Project Junior's class, where she opened up about depression relating to her home life, school and self. Through participation in Parent Project and YEAGA, Mariela has learned to embrace and love herself fully. After learning to love herself, her relationships with others began to vastly improve. In particular her relationship with her mom has completely changed and they are finally at a place where they can communicate with love and understanding.

*"The Parent Project Program helped my mom recover from past hurt and difficult times, showing her that there are people out there she can lean on. This realization has given my mom and I the opportunity to rebuild our relationship and for that I am so grateful. The LLC has shown us that we will always have a support system in our community and that we are not alone."*



### **Jaimie**

Jaimie was a participant in our Parent Project Junior's class when our youth team noticed she could use some additional support outside of the class. Jaimie had been facing communication challenges with their mom, which led to difficulties succeeding in school and forming authentic bonds with their peers. Our youth team worked together to create a plan to work with Jaimie 1:1 and at their most recent meeting, Jaimie shared that she has now gained the necessary communication skills to drastically improve her relationship with her mom and peers. Today, Jaimie is thriving on campus, doing well on her coursework, and forming lasting friendships. Jaimie's attitude has shifted to a more positive one and we are excited to see her continue to grow into a happy young adult!

## 2021



### **Citlalli**

Big shoutouts to one of our Youth Leaders, Citlalli, who was recently selected to serve as a Youth Action Committee member with the Sac Kids First coalition. In this position, Citlalli will work towards making positive change for youth in the City of Sacramento. Leadership development is at the forefront of all our youth activities. We hope to continue to see Latina/o youth grow their leadership capacities and become agents of change in their communities!

*"I am looking forward to be able to have a voice for the youth in Sacramento. LLC has helped me to network and has always been very helpful with providing opportunities and support whenever needed."*