

YouthLaunch

www.youthlaunch.org

7756 Northcross Drive, Suite 203

Austin, TX 78757

Contact:

Donna P. Williams

dwilliams@youthlaunch.org

512-342-0424

May 30, 2007

Dallas Student Wins Statewide Service Honor***Service Changed Her Outlook on Life***

Karina Sanchez, a 2007 graduate of Moises E. Molina High School, was awarded the YouthLaunch Scholarship for Outstanding Service for her exemplary community service. Presented with the honor on Friday, June 1, at the YouthLaunch Annual Service Awards Luncheon in Austin, Sanchez said that volunteer work has “convinced me that helping people is my calling.”

Accumulating over 1000 service hours, Sanchez explained that “service started out as a way to escape family issues. But it has turned out to be the most influential factor in my life.

“When I was first removed from my family and put into foster care, I thought my dreams of going to college were over,” Sanchez said. “But with self-motivation I was able to accomplish my goals.”

Sanchez had to get a job to pay for clothes, school supplies and help with family bills. But she maintained a 3.7 GPA, was a member of the National Honor Society, the Latino Leadership Forum and the Spanish Club.

On top of this Sanchez was able to make time to reach out to others in need. Spending more than 900 hours inside the Methodist Dallas Medical Center, Sanchez translated for patients throughout the hospital, from the emergency room to the delivery room.

“Many of these patients had no family around them,” Sanchez explained. “It felt good to know that I could be there for them in their time of need.”

Sanchez also spent numerous hours working with small children, removed from their homes because of abuse. “I wanted these troubled kids to know that good people do exist in the world,” she explained. “My service has taught me to be compassionate towards everyone, without expecting anything in return. It has encouraged me to be the sunshine in someone’s life each and every day.”

Sanchez is using her YouthLaunch scholarship as part of her tuition at Texas A&M, where she is currently enrolled, studying medicine.

YouthLaunch awards three service scholarships each year to Texas high schools seniors, based solely on their service, leadership and character. YouthLaunch is an Austin-based nonprofit agency that provides and promotes meaningful service opportunities for young people.

