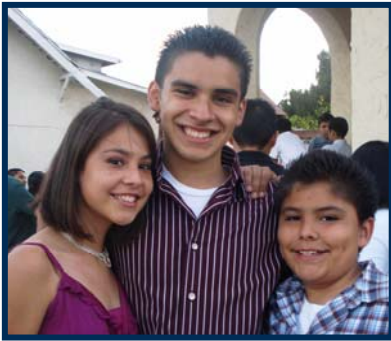


JUAN HERNANDEZ

Makes His Way to Harvard with the Help of After-School All-Stars



Juan Hernandez didn't speak English until he was 10 years old. He is now a sophomore at Harvard University, thanks to After-School All-Stars, Los Angeles (ASAS).

With tremendous odds stacked against him, Juan's education was the last thing on his mind. Juan struggled to overcome the language barrier, he was raised in an area known for urban decay and street crime, and he suffered from low self-esteem. Juan was a target for gangs and he feared daily for his safety and the safety of his family.

It would have been easy for Juan to give in to his surrounding influences, but he knew he had to do something to "make it." As a 6th grader, he became extensively involved in ASAS programs at Edison Middle School. The programs made learning fun and provided him with a safe and easy place to go, a rarity for kids battling the odds like Juan. Juan describes the impact of the program as, "It really gave me a foundation. I think that the middle school years are the most detrimental. Kids need something to do after school."

Due to the encouragement Juan received from his ASAS soccer coach, he developed a drive to be successful. Through ASAS' homework assistance programs, community service projects, dance teams, and many other activities, Juan gained the strong self esteem needed to stand up to the mounting challenges against him. He recalls, "I started out in the program extremely quiet, but then I started opening up. It gave me confidence. Many of my friends went the other direction, into gangs, got shot and died, or are spending their days in jail."

Juan participated in ASAS programs throughout the 6th, 7th and 8th grades and went on to attend Roosevelt High School in East Los Angeles. At Roosevelt High School, he earned a 4.5 GPA in his AP courses, with a focus on mathematics and was actively involved in various academic clubs.

Currently, Juan attends Harvard University in Boston, Massachusetts. In addition to his acceptance to Harvard, Juan was accepted to five other Ivy League schools, an accomplishment Juan credits directly to ASAS.

Founded by Governor Schwarzenegger, ASAS is a leading middle and high school after-school program provider. ASAS programs "**Educate, Enlighten and Inspire**" thousands of school-aged youth each day. The programs are centered on: health, fitness and nutrition; the visual and performing arts; youth leadership and community service learning.

ASAS works in partnership with the City of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Unified School District, Montebello Unified School District, Mountain View School District and Charter School Organizations. Together, they offer over low-income students comprehensive after-school programs that take place during the critical "danger zone" hours of 3 pm to 6 pm. This three hour block of time is when our youth are most likely to join gangs and/or experiment with drugs, alcohol and sex.

Currently, ASAS Los Angeles has successfully launched programs at 21 schools in at-risk communities throughout Los Angeles County, where they serve 3,000 students per day. Nationally, ASAS is in 450 schools and serves 81,000 children in 13 major cities.

There are thousands of kids who depend on ASAS both in Los Angeles and nationally. Your involvement in the 2010 Gala Dinner will enable ASAS to continue to improve the lives of at-risk students both in our own backyard and across the country. By investing a little time and financial resources, we can make a difference in the lives of thousands of children, just like Juan.