

Juntos

Nuestras Vidas: Past, Present, and Future.



Juntos Fortunes

Best wishes to our peers and community

This is your moment. Don't live in the shadow of mistakes you've made. Fight for what you believe in. Reach for the sky. Knowledge is power! Only you can get it. Be persistent. Try. Love your family. **Tú mismo te conoces.** You can be anything you want to be. YOLO! Do what you like even if opportunities are slim. Keep trying. **Mejorar y estudiar muy duro te ayudara a tener un buen futuro.** Live true to yourself. Don't give up. If you are passionate about something don't worry about the money the universe will provide. **Tú mereces mejor.** You have a talent, use it! If there is a will there is a way. Be patient. Have faith. Encourage one another. Leave negative out of the mind. Don't ever forget who you are and the difference you can make! If you work hard now you'll live the rest of your life as a champion. Nothing is impossible. **Enséñame que eres mejor.** A good life or a bad life, only you can decide to make it better. Never give up. Believe. Never give up. I believe in you. You can accomplish anything. Be brave. **Tienes que poner empeño en todo lo que hagas.** Have faith in yourself. It is often in the darkest skies that we see the brightest stars. Encourage yourself, believe in yourself, love yourself and never doubt who you are. Never give up and you will succeed! **Eres único.** Positive attitude and hope for a better future. Don't let anyone tell you that you can't do it, show them that you can, and better. I BELIEVE IN YOU! Do your best through good and bad times. Opportunity knocks on your door everyday - open it. Out of all the followers, dare to be the leader. Try your best, you can make it! Never give up on your dreams. **Todo tiene su tiempo y hora, es tiempo de estudiar.** You can do it, don't ever give up. Never say never. Dream today and achieve tomorrow. Work hard and you will achieve your dreams. Being undocumented shouldn't determine how far you get in life. Never give up on your dreams. Do not give up and go for what you want. If someone tells you that you can't, make it your mission to prove them wrong. Stay strong. Believe in yourself no matter the circumstance.

- Juntos Youth

Commit



Achieve



Dream



¿Que es Juntos?



El programa Juntos une a organizaciones, programas y líderes de la comunidad para proveer a estudiantes Latinos (grados 8vo al 12vo) y sus padres el conocimiento, las habilidades, y los recursos para prevenir que los jóvenes abandonen la escuela, y animar a las familias a que trabajen juntos para que sus hijos logren la educación superior (colegio universitario y/o universidad). Las investigaciones muestran que los jóvenes inmigrantes Latinos corren un riesgo mayor de abandonar la escuela, que estudiantes que no son Latinos. El Programa Juntos contribuye a que se reduzca este riesgo. La colaboración entre los agentes o educadores del Sistema de Extensión Cooperativa, administradores y personal de las escuelas e instituciones de educación superior, y otras organizaciones y voluntarios de la comunidad es lo que hace que el Programa Juntos tenga un éxito

sostenible en varias comunidades a través de los Estados Unidos.

La Misión de Juntos es ayudar estudiantes a que se gradúen de la escuela secundaria y tengan acceso a la educación superior. Esto se logra a través de los cuatro componentes del programa:

1. Participación Familiar , Noches de Familia, y otras actividades orientadas a la familia;
2. Juntos Clubs de 4-H con enfoque académico, tutoría, servicio comunitario, y actividades de preparación para la vida;
3. Entrenamiento para el éxito (Success Coaching) a través de reuniones mensuales e individuales con los estudiantes y/o mentoría para los estudiantes a cargo de un adulto que les ayuda a alcanzar sus metas académicas; y
4. Programa de Verano y otros eventos de 4-H en el verano.

¿Que es La Academia de Verano de Juntos?

La Academia de Verano de Juntos consiste en experimentar la vida universitaria durante una semana en la Universidad Estatal de Carolina del Norte (NCSU). Está dirigida a estudiantes de los grados 9 al 12 de escuelas secundarias (High School) de Carolina del Norte. Los estudiantes que asisten a la Academia tienen la oportunidad de vivir en el campus universitario, participar en proyectos, y tener la mejor semana de sus vidas! Ellos aprenden de profesores y profesionales y descubren que es lo que necesitan para tener éxito académico, graduarse de la escuela secundaria, y seguir la educación superior.

What is Juntos?

Juntos (pronounced “Who-n-toes”) means “Together” in Spanish and works to unite community partners to provide Latino 8-12th grade students and their parents with knowledge, skills, and resources to prevent youth from dropping out and to encourage families to work together to gain access to college. Research shows that immigrant Latino youth are at a much higher risk for dropping out of school than their peers. The Juntos Program reduces this risk by supporting Latino youth through these formative years to graduate from high school and go into college. The multifaceted partnerships between Cooperative Extension agents, school and college administrators and staff, and other community partners and volunteers are what make the Juntos Program a sustainable success in many communities across the US.



The Mission of the Juntos Program is to help students achieve high school graduation and access higher education. This is done through four main components:

1. Juntos Family Engagment: Family Nights, and other activities for families;
2. Juntos 4-H Clubs with a focus on academics, tutoring, community service, and life-skills activities;
3. Juntos One-On-One Success Coaching and/or Mentoring by an adult who helps youth achieve their academic goals; and
4. Summer Programing: Summer academy, social 4-H summer programing, and other local events

What is Juntos Academy?

The Juntos Summer Academy is a week-long college experience, held at North Carolina State University, for rising 9th to 12th graders from across North Carolina. Students who attend the Juntos Academy have the opportunity to live on campus for a week, participate in classes and workshops, work closely with Latino college students, participate in a week-long project, and have the time of their lives! They learn from professors and professionals from various fields and discover what they need to do to achieve academic success, high school graduation, and pursue higher education.

La Academia de Verano de Juntos de 2015

La Academia de Verano de Juntos del 2015 fue la sexta academia realizada en la Universidad Estatal de Carolina Del Norte (NCSU). La Academia contó con la participación de 126 jóvenes quienes vinieron de 7 condados de Carolina del Norte, Wake, Wayne, Forsyth, Yadkin, Durham, Sampson, y Johnston. Los talleres prácticos incluyeron temas como: STEM (por sus siglas en inglés y se refiere a ciencia, tecnología, ingeniería, y matemáticas), diseño/textiles, antropología forense, liderazgo, desarrollo de la identidad, establecimiento de metas, clubs de 4-H, habilidades de escritura, y cómo pagar la educación superior.



La meta de la Academia del 2015 fue exponer a los jóvenes a lo que es la educación superior y animarlos a SOÑAR, a COMPROMETERSE, y a ALCANZAR sus metas. Específicamente las metas de la Academia de Juntos del 2015 fueron las siguientes:

1. Los jóvenes identificarán y valorarán sus propios SUEÑOS, los de sus familias, y de su comunidad.
2. Los jóvenes aprenderán que al COMPROMETERSE los llevará a lograr sus sueños. Este compromiso incluye determinación, perseverancia, y pasión.
3. Los jóvenes se comprometerán a ALCANZAR metas personales, académicas, y familiares, basadas en la comunidad, que los ayudara alcanzar sus sueños.

En relación a este tema, los estudiantes de Juntos participaron en un proyecto de arte individualizado y de auto reflexión durante toda la semana. Al final de la semana, todo el trabajo artístico (individual y en grupo de los estudiantes) fue usado para hacer una colcha digital (o edredón) de la Academia de Juntos. En ella se destaca el impacto que puede crear la unidad. Este librito comparte las ideas que los estudiantes de Juntos tienen de sí mismos, de sus comunidades, de donde ellos han estado, y a donde van.

El Equipo de Liderazgo de Juntos en Carolina del Norte quiere dar la gracias y reconocer a todas personas que presentaron talleres, a los voluntarios, a los capitanes de equipo, a los miembros del comité de planeación, al videógrafo de Juntos, el personal de Juntos, y a la artista del proyecto por su tiempo y dedicación que fue lo que hizo que la Academia fuera todo un éxito. También queremos reconocer el compromiso de los jóvenes de Juntos y sus padres a trabajar juntos para un futuro mejor. Gracias!

- El Equipo de Liderazgo de Juntos en NC

Juntos Summer Academy 2015

The 2015 Juntos Summer Academy was the 6th Juntos Summer Academy hosted at NC State University. A total of 126 youth from seven counties across the State of North Carolina were represented. Counties included: Wake, Wayne, Forsyth, Yadkin, Durham, Sampson, and Johnston. Hands-on workshops covered subjects like STEM, Design/Textiles, and Forensic Anthropology, as well as leadership, identity development, goal-setting, 4-H clubs, writing skills, and how to pay for college.



The goal of the 2015 Academy was to expose our youth to higher education with an emphasis on encouraging them to DREAM, to COMMIT, and to ACHIEVE in their own lives. The 2015 Juntos Academy goal statements were:

1. Youth will identify and value their DREAMS for themselves, their families, and their community.
2. Youth will learn that COMMITMENT will lead to achieving their dreams. This commitment includes determination, perseverance, and passion.
3. Youth will commit to ACHIEVING personal, academic, and family/community-based goals that will bring them closer to their dreams.

In relation to this theme, Juntos students were involved in an individualized self-reflection art project throughout the week. At the end of the week, all of the students' individual and group-based artwork was merged into a single Juntos Academy Quilt to highlight the impact of what unity can create. This booklet shares the beautiful insights of what Juntos students think of themselves and their communities, where they have been, and where they are going.

The Juntos NC Leadership Team wants to thank and acknowledge all the workshop presenters, volunteers, team captains, planning committee members, Juntos videographer, Juntos staff, and project artist for their time and dedication which made Academy a great success. We also want to recognize the commitment of Juntos youth and their parents to work together for a better future. Thank you!

- The Juntos NC Leadership Team



Cooperative Extension's
Youth Development Program

COMMITMENTS

Describe a moment or memory that strengthened one of your commitments. What happened? What did you learn? How did you respond?

Describe un momento o una memoria que ha fortalecido uno de sus compromisos. ¿Que pasó? ¿Qué aprendiste? ¿Cómo respondió?



◆ A memory that has made my commitments stronger is watching my dad come home every day from work all dirty and covered in oil. My dad usually goes to work at three in the morning and comes back home around 7 or 8 at night. When I was little he would go to work early in the morning and come home tired, but he would still help me and my sister with our homework. My dad is my role model because no matter what happened he would always stay calm and think about what was the next step. I have learned that patience is key to solving a problem. Don't just sit there and wait for the problem to solve itself but be patient enough to sit there and think of every possible solution and pick the best one. ◆ Mi mama siempre me recuerda que debo mejorar en todo. Me hace sentir bien porque sé que quiere lo mejor para mí. ◆



COMMITMENTS

◆ *I feel strong when my family tells me “you will be the first to succeed”. Also when I joined Juntos they showed me to believe in myself. These two moments helped me; they made a big impact on my life.* ◆ *One of my commitments is to my family. We got more united because of a relative’s death. We all came together and supported each other. I learned that family has ups and downs every now and then, but when it gets serious we can all work better together.* ◆ *I wanted to bench 225 and I started working out harder to reach my goal.* ◆ *A moment that strengthened one of my commitments is teamwork. I made a commitment to finish a big project and I made an A because of my team, we worked together. I learned that with teamwork you can accomplish almost anything.* ◆ *A moment that strengthened me was when I had a test and scored an 89% on it and I was really upset with myself because I had never scored a low*
“When I migrated to the US it really strengthened my commitment to be strong. It was a totally new environment, culture and language. I learned to live in a place totally different and tolerate other people’s beliefs and traditions. I responded with a positive and open-minded point of view.”

“Cuando emigre a los EE.UU. eso realmente fortaleció mi compromiso de ser fuerte. Entre el ambiente, la cultura, y el idioma, todo era nuevo. He aprendido a vivir en un lugar totalmente diferente y tolerar las creencias y tradiciones de otras personas. Yo respondí de manera positiva y con una mente abierta.”

-Juntos Youth, Forsyth County

grade on my test before. I learned that I should take my time and not rush through it and look back and check my work again because I would love to go to a nice college. ◆ *When I told my mom I wanted to reach all my goals she told me “work hard and do your best. Focus on your goals because I believe in you and you can do it.”* ◆ *I have to remember the moment I learned to speak English. Learning English was a great advantage that everyone should know. I am going to respond by changing this world and making this world a better place. I am thankful to my teachers and friends.* ◆ *When my grandpa died I learned that not everyone is going to be in my life forever.* ◆ *Making real best friends made me a better person and be more confident.* ◆ *When I watched a video of a guy building a robot it interested me. So I studied and labeled part of intentions so that inspired me to be a mechanical engineer.* ◆ *I joined Juntos because my mom said it was a good thing to do. I ended up joining and I learned many things and I got to do many things. They taught me to keep motivating myself and to be unique.* ◆ *Once a man came to my school and talked about graduating. I learned that it is important to graduate from high school. I learned about what I need to do to graduate from high school.* ◆

COMMITMENTS



It was 7th grade the beginning of soccer season and there was a school record of most goals which was 13 goals in one season. I beat the record by scoring 15 goals. I felt so proud of myself that I could reach one of my goals. In 8th grade soccer season people kept saying we wouldn't and couldn't win the conference, it made me feel motivated. We beat the other team and it made my team confident champions. ♦ I remember one time I had broken something and I was scared my mom would be mad. So I just didn't tell her the truth. And my mom found out she told me I should have told her the truth so I wouldn't have been in trouble. I learned on that day that I should tell the truth always. ♦ One time my family went on a camping trip. We were able to talk to each other and we bonded a lot. I learned a lot that day from my family. ♦

COMMITMENTS

Confident

We are all united

Respectful, Competitive, loyal

We have a dream one day we will all succeed

Minorities, leader, funny

Reaching for the blue sky

The color green and fierce lions

We commit to never give up

We struggle to keep focused on our goals

We achieve today for a better future

We will reach our dreams and goals

Leaders, Self-motivated, family

Always believe in yourself

We are confident

◆ One of the most important moments to me was when I scored my first goal in soccer. I had a bad first year playing soccer but that memory drove me to keep playing. In soccer if you are not one of the best at first some players look down on you. I looked past that and now I am better from the criticism. ◆ One of the moments that has strengthened me was when I received an award for Excellency in agriculture mechanics. This course had many hands on an active exams and greetings. Agriculture mechanics taught me to repair and improve small engine enhancements and performance. I learned from this that I can keep going into depth as a mechanic but now as a mechanical engineer. ◆ Growing up without my parents taught me to appreciate every moment I spent with them. ◆

COMMITMENTS

“A moment that strengthened me was when my dad was telling my siblings and me that he had wished he had the opportunity to go to college. What he said made me realize that I’m in a country where there are lots of opportunities to be successful. Many kids don’t have the same chances I do, and I want to go to college to accomplish my goals and my parents’ goals.”

“Un momento que me fortaleció fue cuando mi papá nos dijo a mis hermanos y a mí que había deseado tener la oportunidad de ir a la universidad. Lo que dijo me hizo dar cuenta de que estoy en un país donde hay un montón de oportunidades para tener éxito. Muchos niños no tienen las mismas oportunidades que yo, y quiero ir a la universidad para lograr mis metas y las metas de mis padres.”

-Juntos Youth, Anonymous

◆ *A moment that I have had someone beside me was the moment when I graduated. We all congratulated each other we all felt accomplished and proud. We all just want to keep going forward and to have a really bright future.* ◆ *A moment that has strengthened my commitments is when I joined Juntos. Being part of Juntos has given me the confidence to talk to my dad about my problems. I have been more open. I’ve joined community service and I’ve been involved in more activities out of the home.* ◆ *A memory that has strengthened me was when my best friend told me to never give up and always think positive. She still tells me now. She is always reminding me to have a good attitude and to do things well. She always makes my day when I’m feeling down.* ◆ *One of my commitments that strengthen me was working hard because I have learned that if you want to be successful in many things in life. I responded by working hard and I’ve got to do things because I work hard one person that stood up for me was my father he told me you have to work hard in what you want to do and what you want to achieve. He said there are times that it is going to be hard but you can’t let that stop you.* ◆ *My mom who is my inspiration makes me work hard for a better future. I know that lots of people want some type of help and I want to be one that provides for them. Some people will support you and others will try to crush your dreams but if you’re smart enough you will know who to listen to. My mother has worked more than 19 years and this makes me think that hard work or work 14 hours a day can’t make your life any better. She didn’t get any education just 2 kids who have the opportunity to receive education. I figure out that a positive attitude is what will lead me to success this is why I don’t take negative comments from people.* ◆ *A moment that has impacted my life was when one of my primos got murdered in Mexico. He was following in bad steps and didn’t have much time to stay in school. What strengthened me from this was to stay in school and not go in the wrong direction so I wouldn’t be the same.* ◆

COMMITMENTS

◆ *I want to have a better future for myself and my family. I see that my parents have struggled a lot and didn't have the education that I have now. From this experience I have learned that I need my education to be successful in life. Even though my parents didn't get the chance to have what I do now, because they are immigrants, I have a chance to make a change for myself and my family. ◆ I am strengthened by being athletically better in my sport and when I changed my study habits. These attributes made me a better person in wanting to make my dreams a reality. And never taking no for an answer has been a big one for me. I have always been taught to be a better opponent and always be humble at the same time. ◆ Seeing my family struggle financially made me more determined to get a good income job. My dad is the only one who works and his health lately has gone downhill. I want him to comfortably*

“My mother always reminds me that I should do better in everything. It makes me feel good because I know she wants the best for me. I know she will always be there to support me.”

“Mi mama siempre me recuerda que debo mejorar en todo. Me hace sentir bien porque sé que quiere lo mejor para mí. Se que ella siempre me apoya.”

-Juntos Youth, Anonymous

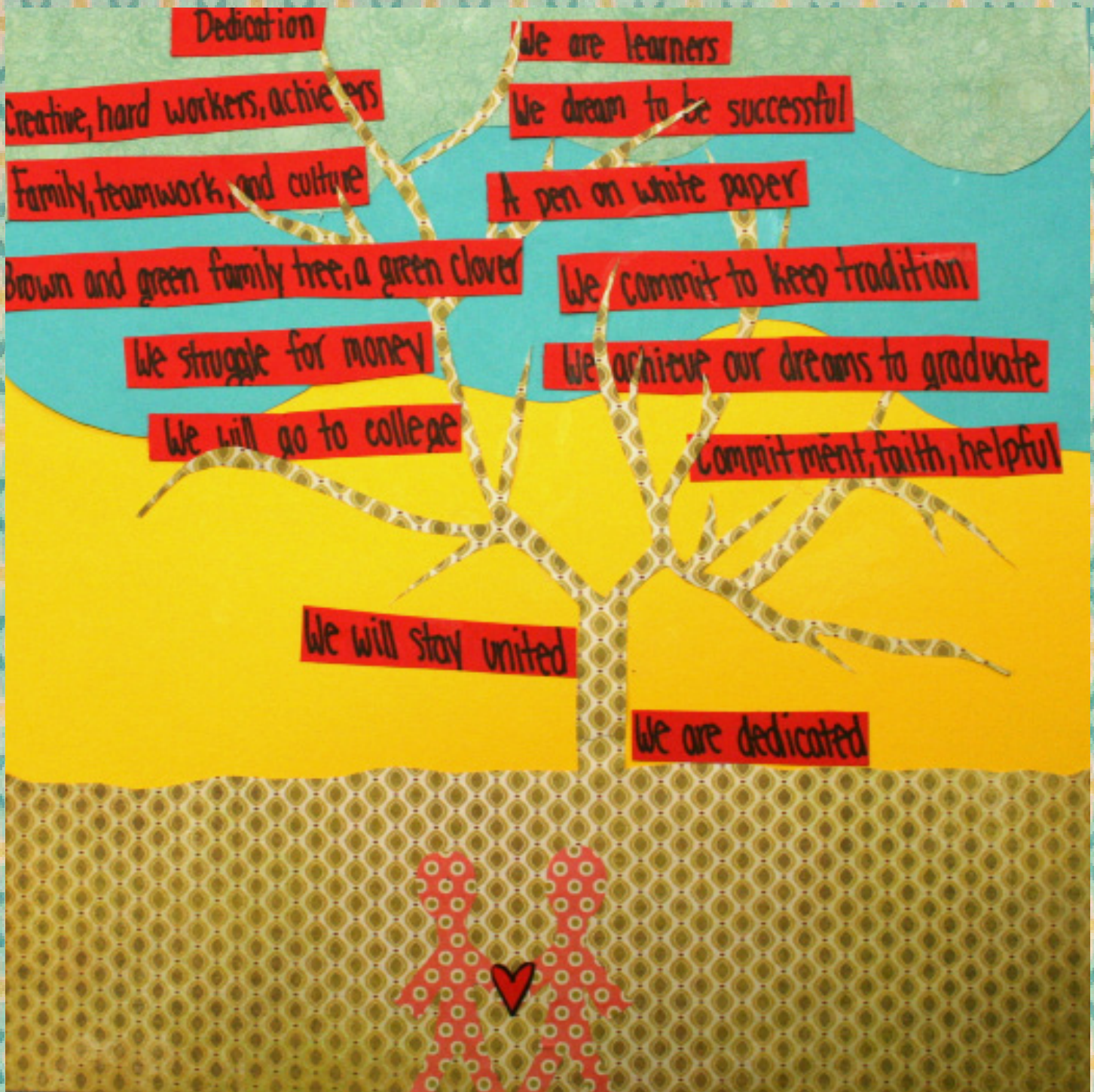
work without worrying about the bills. My family has stood in my way, they may not have realized it but when they say negative things, I believe it. Now I learned to take those comments as a challenge. ◆ I know that with the help from my Juntos captains and my mentors I can apply for a few colleges and surely get accepted to at least two. With the knowledge they gave me, who have been through the stress of applying and staying in college, I can be a successful and independent student. ◆ Me comprometí a regresar a Honduras porque allá crecí con mis abuelos con los cuales pase muchos momentos de alegría y algunas tristezas pero ellos siempre estaban allí para mí para apoyarme en todo. Aprendí que cuando te separas de las personas que más quieres tienes como una ilusión de poder salir adelante y yo le responderé a mis abuelitos estudiando duro para poder ser pediatra y regresar a honduras para ayudarlos y pasar muchos momentos felices. Sé que será duro pero lograré. ◆ I went to DC to give a speech in a congressional breakfast. I talked about my experience with Juntos. I learned that I truly have leadership skills and I'm a gifted public speaker which filled me with happiness. ◆ One of my commitments is to take care of my little siblings. I learned the hard way that taking care of someone makes them feel happy and safe. ◆ Devotional time was great because it made my doubts smaller. ◆ I learned about scholarships that I never knew about. ◆

COMMITMENTS



◆ I am committed to being protective. When I was a kid my dad went to prison. My dad was selling drugs. When the cops came, my dad told us to go to the room. My little sister was in the corner and I went to my dad. All I saw was the cop bust down the door and picked up my dad and slammed him on the floor. I ran to the room where my sister was, the cops ran after me and I saw their guns so I pushed my sister in the corner and covered her because I thought the cops were going to shoot and I didn't want her to get hurt. The day he went was the day I became protective. ◆ When I got hurt playing soccer my family was a big help. When I was on crutches and when I wasn't able to do anything they were there for me. That experience made me appreciate them even more and really see that they'll always be there for me and support me. ◆

COMMITMENTS



◆ I was with my mom in the car and she told me she couldn't finish college because she had me. I wondered why she didn't go back right after. I learned not to fall in 'love' too early. I promised myself to go to college. ◆ One memory that strengthened all of my commitments was when I was accused of wrong but without hesitation my mom believed me and stood firmly in front of the man who could determine my destiny. For the first time I felt that there was one person in the entire world who believed me. It was her, the woman who has been with me since the beginning, whom I will forever have loyalty to, my mom. I was shocked, and I couldn't think straight. I couldn't respond. I will never forget what she did for me. All I do is to make her proud, no matter what happens, I will do everything to make her smile. ◆

COMMITMENTS

◆ *Desde que yo llegué aquí a los estados unidos he echado mucho de menos a mis abuelitos y he sentido en la necesidad de querer regresar a Honduras pero mis padres siempre me han impedido hacerlo, ellos dicen que aquí tengo más oportunidades, aquí si yo me lo propongo realizar mis sueños. Me siento mal cuando recuerdo a mis abuelos pero recuerdo las palabras de mis papas y me doy cuenta de que tienen razón y para empezar a cumplirlos. He sacado muy buenas notas en la escuela para responderles a ellos a mis abuelos.* ◆ *When I was in sixth grade I always wanted to be "cool". I continued to middle school and I always tried to fit in with everyone and I would always pretend to be someone else and that's how I always was. But what I*

"One day I was at one of my swim competitions and I got first place in my event. I learned that if I put at least 100% I will succeed. I was very happy and took a lot from it."

"Un día estaba en uno de mis competiciones de natación y me dieron el primer lugar en mi evento. Aprendí que si pongo al menos 100% voy a tener éxito. Yo estaba muy feliz y aprendi mucho."

-Juntos Youth, Sampson County

didn't realize is that I was losing myself. Then I had a mentor and she got me and we talked for hours and we became so close and she told me that I seemed different with her then with the people I hang out with. That's when I realized I wasn't myself and that opened my eyes. I started to be myself and I liked myself 100 times better! So now and every day I think that I'm unique and perfect for myself. ◆ *A moment that strengthened my commitments was when 'they' took my father from me. I learned that my life wasn't ever going to be the same and that I had to become a man. At first I reacted negatively, but later reacted positively and became stronger mentally and emotionally.* ◆ *Un momento seria mi familia nunca se he propuesto a luchar por algo y no puedo seguir en estos mismos pasos. No puedo ser como ellos, tengo que ser mejor y superarme.* ◆ *I've committed myself to my family. Both my parents are illegal but I've noticed even though they're not citizens they both still were able to get a job and always had something to put on our plates to eat every day. They still are today, and I know there will be a day when they're not able to have the strength to work and it'll be our job to do the things they did for us to them. No matter who stands in my way, I'll always be there for my family like they were always there for me. I have hope that at least one day there will be a chance for our family to have the dream they have always dreamed of.* ◆ *My grandpa died, I looked up to him. He wanted me to go further than he did, and that motivates me to do more and be a better person. I felt bad when I saw my grades and started to focus more on school.* ◆

COMMITMENTS



◆ My parents said the only thing I had to worry about was school. I felt happy and guilty because I didn't have to do much but they always had to work, work, work. I felt good when I finally got to go to work because I could make my own money and help my family. ◆ In devotionals I learned by hearing many people's problems that we are all alike and how we all have problems but we together can overcome them. I loved the fact we were able to meet new people and hear their stories. ◆ My sister said be happy, joyful. So I still do. I don't care, I love to do what I do. I feel good when I do good. I love my sister, she is cool. ◆ Un momento seria mi familia nunca se he propuesto a luchar por algo y no puedo seguir en estos mismos pasos. No puedo ser como ellos, tengo que ser mejor y superarme. ◆

COMMITMENTS



◆ When I got my first speeding ticket, I had to take responsibility for it and find a job and pay for it. ◆ One of my greatest memories that stands out to me was being able to come out as a bisexual without being worried about being judged. I held my girlfriend's hand that day proud that we were together. It was quite a shock how many friends and fellow peers were supportive instead of insulting or ignoring me because of it. Since that day I feel as though I can be more open amongst my peers. ◆ For a while I wasn't exactly worried about my happiness, and I realized it was an important thing to have. After realizing this I've decided that I had to make sure my happiness was a priority of mine. ◆



Cooperative Extension's
Youth Development Program

CHALLENGES

Describe a moment or memory when someone stood in your way to one of your commitments. What did they do? What did they say? How did it make you feel? How did you respond?

Describe un momento o una memoria cuando alguien trato de impedir que alcanzara uno de sus compromisos. ¿Que hicieron? ¿Que dijeron? ¿Cómo se sintió? ¿Cómo respondió?



RESILIENCE

WE ARE DETERMINED TO BETTER OUR FUTURE

CAUTIOUS, TALENTED, PRIDEFUL

WE DREAM OF BETTERING THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY

HOPEFUL, BLESSED, LOYAL

WE ARE HARD LIKE A GREEN TURTLE'S SHELL

WE ARE STRONG LIKE AN EVERGREEN TREE

WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO SUCCESS

WE STRUGGLE EVERYDAY WITH OURSELVES

WE ACHIEVE WHAT OTHERS BELIEVE WE CAN'T

WE WILL ACCOMPLISH OUR DREAMS

Ambitious, motivated, inspired

We fight for our dreams

We are resilient

◆ Somebody stood in my way and told me that I couldn't double major because I'm Hispanic. I knew nobody could hurt my feelings or destroy my dreams. I told them 'yea I'm Hispanic what's wrong with that'. I don't care what they say and I walked away. ◆ A moment that strengthened me was when my family told me I wouldn't make it in life to be successful. It actually hit me and hearing these words from my family made me realize a lot! I'm going to show them that I will be successful, that's why I'm here. ◆ My dad used to smoke crack and he used to tell me I wouldn't do nothing in life and that I wasn't worth nothing. I remember my 3rd grade teacher how hard she worked to pick up my grades and help me not give up. I will never give up on anything I do. I will strive until I make it. ◆

CHALLENGES

Ambition

We are juntos

Bilingual, dreams, achievers

We dream for a better future

Supportive, hopeful, leaders

Throwing our purple graduation cap

Seeking like a golden lion

We commit to be dedicated

We struggle financially

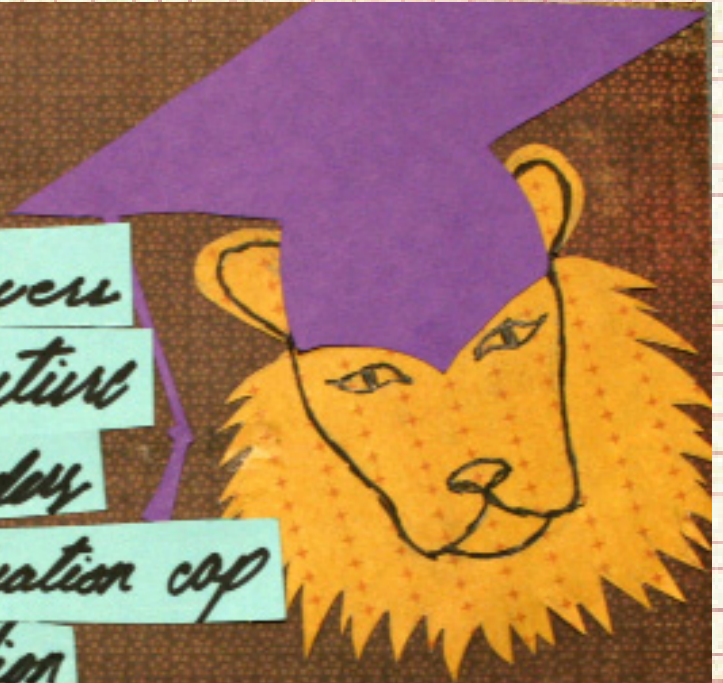
We can achieve great things

We surpass our obstacles

Respect, family, role models

We lead generation Z

We are ambitious



◆ I want to learn more about different colleges that are there for me. When I was younger I wanted to look at colleges for soccer programs, but people told me I wasn't good enough. I stopped looking because it made me feel horrible deep inside but I didn't let it show. With Juntos I got the opportunity to come to NC State to experience what it is like in college and I also got to learn about other colleges and how you can go from community college to a 4 year college. Now I'm going to start looking at programs again. ◆ Someone asked me to skip class once; it made me feel wrong if I did. I responded by not going with them. ◆ I was committed to be a T-Rex when I grew older. My brother told me I would never become a T-Rex. I went to my room and cried. I learned that I really couldn't become a T-Rex. ◆

CHALLENGES

FOUNDATION

WE ARE THE FUTURE

POWER, ARTISTIC, CONJUGATED

WE HAVE A DREAM

FAITHFUL, UNIQUE, ATHLETIC

A GRAY WALL

A GREEN TREE

WE COMMIT TO REBUILDING OURSELVES

WE STRUGGLE TO ACCEPT CHANGE

BUT WE WILL ACHIEVE OUR GOALS

WE WILL BE KNOWN

SUPPORT, CONFIDENCE, HOPE

WE WILL BUILD HOUSES

WE ARE FOUNDATIONAL

“When I was freshman I tried out for the school’s track team. The coach told me I was not fast enough to join. I begged him to let me join and when he agreed, I set my mind to become faster.”

“Cuando era estudiante de primer año intente entrar al equipo de pista de la escuela. El entrenador me dijo que no era lo suficientemente rápido para participar. Le rogué que me dejara ser parte del equipo y cuando se puso de acuerdo, me puse en mi mente la meta de ser más rápido.”

-Juntos Youth, Anonymous

CHALLENGES



◆ When I was 13 years old I decided to move to the US to be with my mom again, because she left when I was 5 years old for a better life. At first my dad didn't want me to go, but I was persistent. When I was crossing the border from Mexico to the United States immigration stopped me and they took me to a shelter for six months. At first I thought all was lost, but I kept calm and I made it and now I am living with my mom and sister again. ◆ There was a moment when a man was being awfully mean about Hispanics. He kept referring to us as 'these people' and 'those Mexicans'. I should have said something but I didn't. It made me feel discouraged. I realized that I stood in my own way to speak out. Now I will stand up, speak out, and do something. ◆

CHALLENGES

◆ *When people say that ‘Mexicans can’t do nothing’ it encourages me to do better and make a good impression and different impression of my culture. I want to represent my culture in a positive way.* ◆ *Once one of my friends tried to get me to skip school. She said nothing would happen just for a day. It made me feel bad because she’s my friend and I didn’t want to let her down, so I tried to get her not to skip but she did it anyway. I know she’s my friend but sometimes you gotta do what’s right instead of just doing wrong things that other people do.* ◆ *A moment when someone stood in my way... well it’s not just one person, its society in general, ya know? How people automatically label us, well it’s whatever. I still stand strong,*

“One of my friends was down with smoking and tried to lure me to do that. I had to tell my friend that’s not what I’m trying to do because it would slow me down. Later my friend stopped himself, so now we are headed the right way together.”

“Uno de mis amigos fumaba y trató de presionar para que también lo hiciera. Tuve que decirle a mi amigo que no es lo que quería hacer porque me frenaría. Más tarde, mi amigo dejó de fumar, y ahora nos dirigimos juntos al camino correcto.”

-Juntos Youth, Sampson County

and continue on. ◆ *When I experienced peer pressure, I chose to do the right thing. The obstacle made me feel pressured and like I was the odd one. I responded in a responsible way and I chose to do the right thing.* ◆ *I used to have a friend who would say there was no way I could succeed because ‘Hispanics aren’t smart.’ I was so angry I wanted to hurt her but as the civil person I am, I just never spoke to her again and I proved her wrong.* ◆ *Someone told me I wouldn’t graduate and that I would get pregnant. Right now I’m proving them wrong because I’m about to graduate and I have no children. I’ve showed her that I’m always confident and I don’t let anyone get in my way when I want to prove someone wrong.* ◆ *Seeing how racism was all around helped me embrace who I am and where I came from. Seeing how people were discriminated against helped me love my culture more. A family member once told me ‘we came to this country to work not to go to school’. Hearing this made me feel down and sad, I believed that us Hispanics couldn’t dream because we couldn’t achieve anything. Later I realized that we are a powerful minority and everything is possible.* ◆ *Singing in front of people is not as easy as you think, It takes a lot of courage to be on stage and sing. Failure is the greatest fear. Messing up is ok, when you keep your head up and never look back, When I told my mom I wanted to study theater and music she told me singing and acting was a waste of time. She made me feel like a failure, but I answered back saying that it was my future, my passion, and that I will achieve it.* ◆

CHALLENGES

◆ *People stand in your way like other students who don't care about their education and are bad influences and they try and get everyone involved with them. I learned not to care what they say or think, my friends and I just ignore them.* ◆ *My family once made me feel like they didn't support my decisions and they didn't like my ideas. It made me feel angry and worthless.* ◆ *Being told I wasn't able to do something made me try harder.* ◆ *One day a person bullied me because I was smart and I felt really sad. He made fun of me and said hurtful things but the only person he was hurting was himself. I took a stand and said it was a good thing to be smart.* ◆ *I was making good grades and another boy told me that it wasn't important to make good grades. He told me to come skip class with him. It made me mad for him to talk*

When someone told me I would never do good in school, I had to prove them wrong and show them that I could and I graduated.

“Cuando alguien me dijo que nunca seria bueno en la escuela, tuve que demostrar que estaban equivocados y mostrarles que yo podia y me gradué.”

-Juntos Youth, Yadkin County

to me like that. I said that it is important and it is also important to me, and I told him that I would not skip class with him. ◆ *A bully stood in my way of enjoying school. they would mess with me while the teacher would teach they also made me feel not human. But I started talking to her and soon we became best friends.* ◆ *There have been a lot of things that have opposed me. One was going out with friends during my homework and studying time period I had to make a tough decision. I think I made the right one because I chose to do my work.* ◆ *They told me to drop out of school and to do something else. It made me think for a while and I know I should not drop out because I thought a lot about my future and I want to have a better life than my parents did.* ◆ *In my school they used to bully me because of my height. I was so tired that one day I told one of my teachers and the principal. The kids that bullied me got suspended. After that day I learned to never let anyone bully me.* ◆ *Coming to the US was a huge moment in my life. Knowing that I was in a better place for new educational opportunities was an even bigger thing. I had a make a move and start to do something that would be able to help me achieve a career. A close relative told me once I wouldn't make it anywhere, but telling me didn't change my perspective to achieve my goals. I didn't let that bother me, so I just ignored her and did what I had to do, which got me even further with wanted to achieve my goals.* ◆ *People get in the way all the time. They said 'I wasn't good enough' but I ignored them. I know I will succeed.* ◆

CHALLENGES

Perseverance

We are the future

Unique, Creative, passionate

we dream to be successful

Supportive, loving, proud

Like green money

And the sun rising over a hill

We commit to the uncommitted

We struggle to keep on our feet

We achieve what we set our minds to

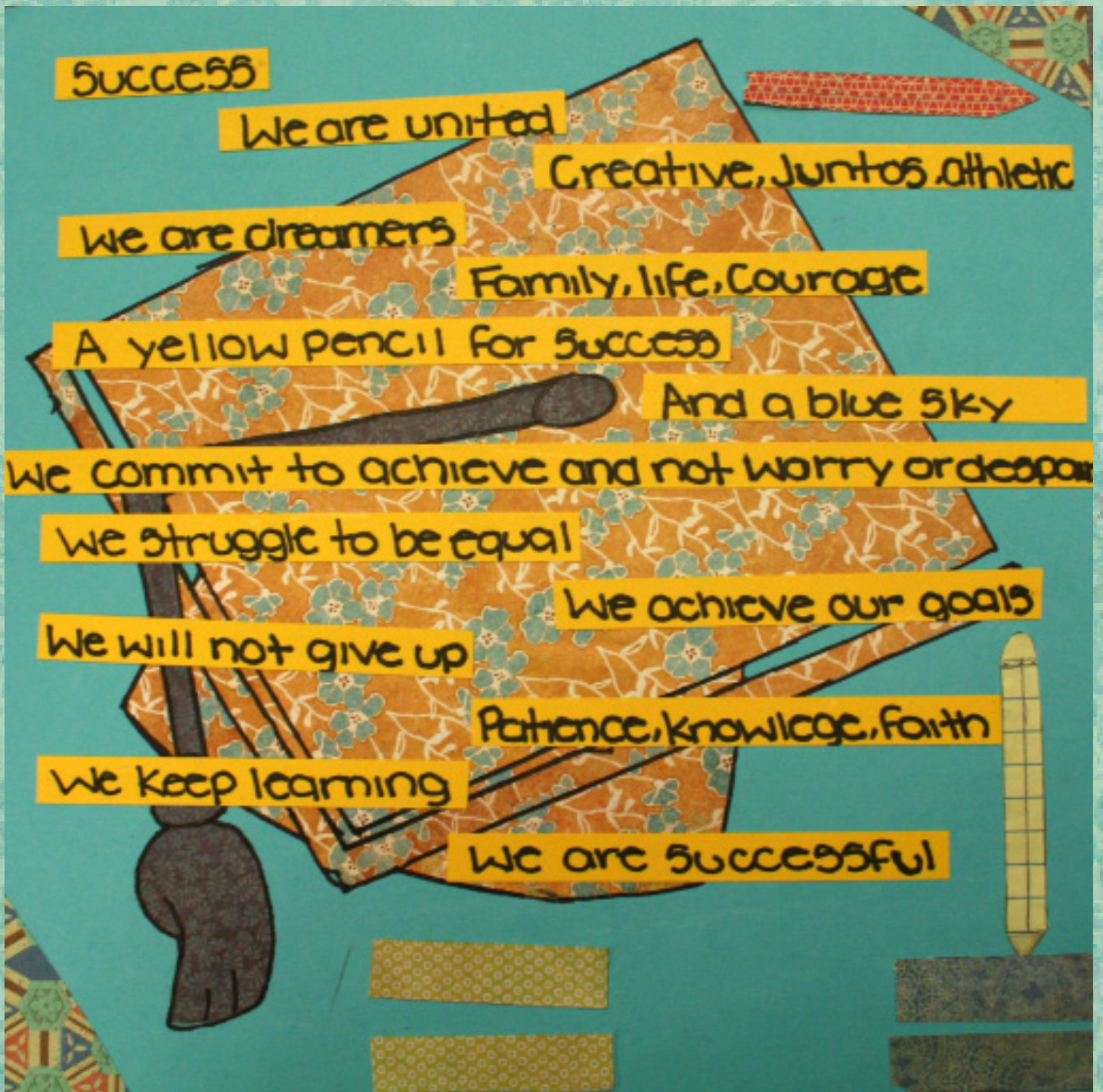
Resilience, desire, commitment

Like getting up early in the morning

We will persevere

◆ When our family members immigrate over here for a better life, most times they are discriminated against because of their culture and customs. They eventually learn to adapt to their environment. They accept that everybody is different and you should be proud of our cultures. Others always one way or another try and bring you down, they underestimate you. It makes you seem less than, have guilt, and seem like we can't proceed, but we have to respond in a positive way and prove them wrong. ◆ The arguments and depression I went through stood in my way to my commitment to be happy. The relationships within my family depressed me in a way that prevented me from being happy, so I went to therapy for a year to make me feel better about myself. I'm trying my best to be happy now. ◆

CHALLENGES



◆ My dad was never really in the picture or in my life, he treated my mom really bad and it just strengthened me because I promised myself to never be like him, my mom always told me that everything will be alright and she would cry when she told me. My family would sometimes tell me I'll be like my dad and it made me feel bad, but at the same time, like my mom said, "Prove them wrong" and I will. I just genuinely want to be successful in life and make my mom proud. ◆ There was a time when one of my friends told me that I was dumb for being Mexican. I was in the first grade and he made me feel really stupid. I guess he wasn't really my friend. I didn't respond to his bullying, I merely replied by trying harder than he did. I soon felt smarter than he did; I guess I was the smarter one after all. ◆

CHALLENGES



◆ When I was smaller I was told that I lacked the intelligence to be a psychologist and that it was a hard field so I should look for another career. At first I was down on myself and it really made me rethink what I wanted to do. Instead, I used it to motivate me and I focused on proving them wrong and that my dreams and goals can be achieved. Coming to NC State and seeing some of the teachers and team captains who are my mentors to me has helped me pursue my career. I learned that there were many more fields than I expected there to be in psychology, but it only made me want to do it and pursue it even more. ◆ My counselor told me I was not ready to take an AP class. I tried to convince her. I worked hard to prove myself. I learned that sometimes pursuing your dreams can be complicated. I had a hard time but I did it. ◆



JUNTOS DREAMS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

What are your biggest dreams? What do you want to achieve in your life?

¿Cuáles son sus sueños mas mayores? ¿Qué es que quiere lograr en su vida?



Unity

We are Juntos

Dance, bilingual, food

Dream to succeed

Parties, support, culture

We fight to survive like the white tiger

Our ancestors immigrated across the blue ocean

We commit to be someone in life

We struggle to make history

But we can always achieve history

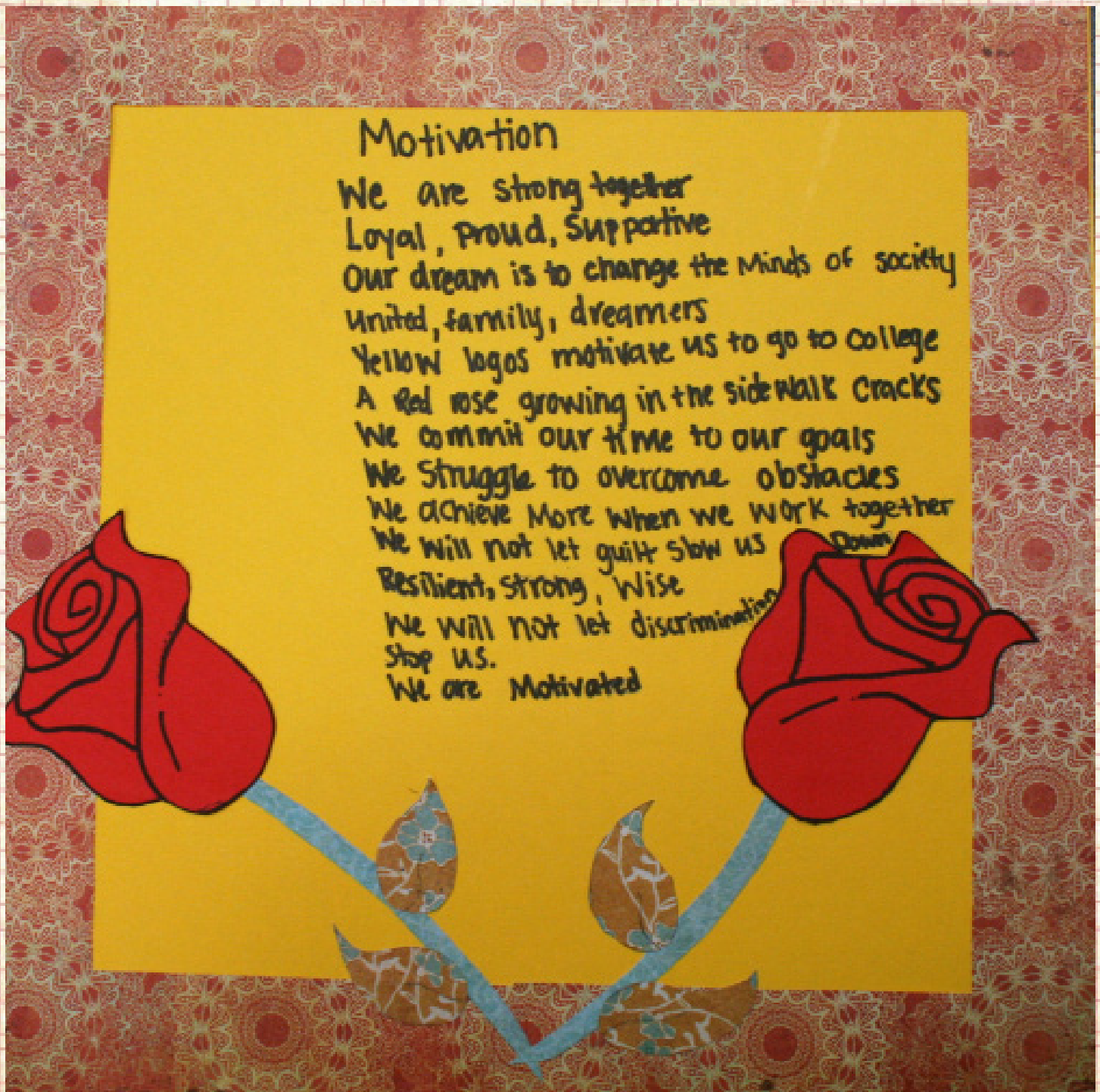
We will overcome our obstacles

Values, mentors, ethnic pride

We dance and work hard

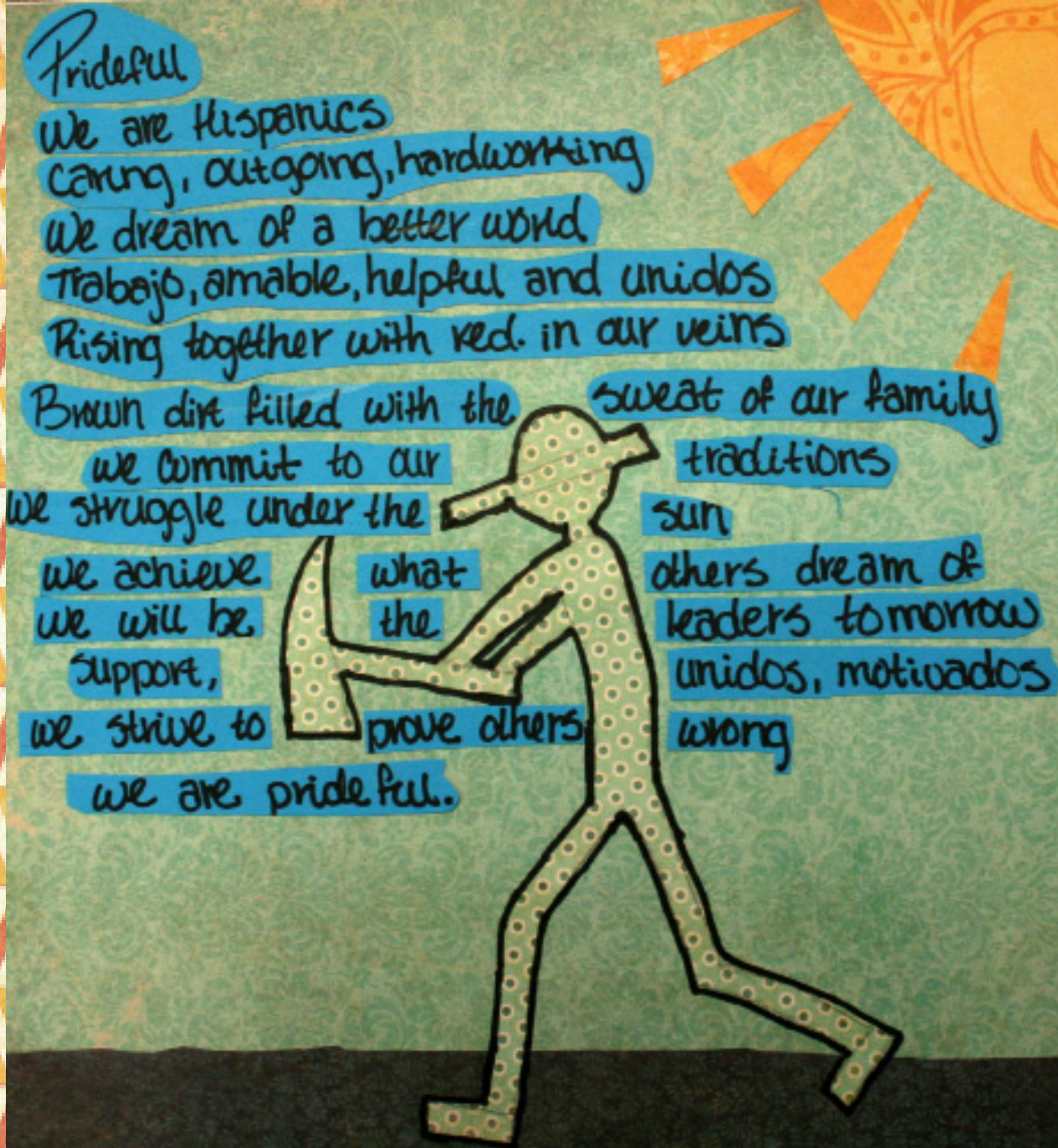
We are united

◆ I believed I should have been a mermaid because I love to swim and be at the beach. That's why I really want to go to UNCW, even though I know I'll never become a mermaid. ◆ My dream is to have a good future. I want to graduate high school, go to college, and be successful. I know I will achieve this. I need to have a good GPA. I believe in myself to make my dream happen. ◆ To become a vet and have a nice house and car. ◆ I dream to go to the Olympics. To be a doctor. A fashionista. US Army. Become the richest person in the world. Go to college and complete it. An aerospace engineer and work for NASA and go to space. ◆ The main thing in life is to graduate from college, though it's going to be a difficult journey for reasons like not being able to afford it. I've determined to go and not give up no matter how hard it is. ◆



◆ I want to achieve life success but it can't be perfect. I want to be an engineer but it's hard along the way but I will overcome it. Everybody deals with life but it's even harder without education and inspiration. I want to finish my education but doing what I love. ◆ My dream is to travel around the world. To achieve this I have to get a well-paying job so I can get the money to travel. I know that I have to go to college for my career. ◆ My dream is to be a Latina that helps her race. An immigration lawyer. I dream about being happy and that is a daily process. My dream is to help people. ◆ My goal is to graduate high school. I think it's the first step in higher learning and with this you can get an ok job too. If I do good in all my classes and pass them I can get out of high school. ◆

DREAMS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



◆ I am capable of doing anything I want and I can achieve my goals if I put my mind to it. ◆ My dreams made me realize that I can accomplish what I want. I can achieve what I set my mind on. ◆ My goal was to find a job that I like and feel comfortable with. I learned a lot of things that I can accomplish and that I can reach my goals. I've learned never give up on my dreams and I will reach them. ◆ I saw most of my family drop out and not graduate all the time. I thought to myself, "do I want this to be me?" I didn't see that as being my future. I want to succeed in life; I want to accomplish all my goals. I will finish high school and get the career I want. ◆

DREAMS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



◆ My biggest dream is to be able to financially support my wife and children and make them happy and give them everything. It doesn't matter if I don't end up doing what I want to do, my family goes first, after that give back to my parents, buy them a house and brand new cars, I just want my whole family to be happy. ◆ My dream is to be a rich, responsible and successful man. I want to get accepted into college and graduate with a bachelor's degree. My dream is to not be like my family is and not struggle how my grandma did. I dream to make music and get signed to a music production. I always want to repay my parents for supporting me and being there for me when I needed them, now it's my turn to support them. ◆ I want to have a career and make my family proud. I will be the first to graduate in my family. ◆

DREAMS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

◆ I want to go to college and get a marriage license in counseling. I want to graduate from college. I want to give back to my community. I want to help my family. ◆ I dream to take care of my parents and to repay my mom for what they have sacrificed for me to have a better education and a better future. ◆ I want to be a chef. It has always been something I want to do, making experiments to see what the final product will be. I want to work with new people and build good connections, learn what's new in the kitchen. ◆ I want to make my mom proud, to be honest she deserves the world. I just want to go to college and prove to people that told me I couldn't do it that I can. ◆ I want to be happy because if you aren't happy you won't succeed in life. ◆ One of my dreams is to buy my parents the house of their dreams and for them not to worry about anything. I want to be successful so I can provide for them; I want them to depend on me like I depend on them. ◆ My dream is to be the first in my family to go to college and finish college. I want to study nursing. ◆ I want to help as many people as I can. It may sound simple but it will be a challenge for me because there are a lot of people who need help. I want to do this because I know how good it feels to help someone even if you don't know them. My inspiration is watching the people I help smile. ◆ I want to be a therapist because I want to help people's families with problems. When I was little I didn't really have help when I needed it, but it's because I was different from others, I was a bad person so I didn't want help and nobody helped me. I want to make my life worth it, to help

“When my little brother was born I really admired all the nurses coming in and out of the room worrying about my mother and my little brother's health. I really want to become a neonatal nurse.”

“Cuando nació mi hermano pequeño, realmente admiraba todas las enfermeras que entraban y salían de la sala que se preocupaban por mi madre y la salud de mi hermano pequeño. Tengo muchas ganas de hacer una enfermera neonatal.”

-Juntos Youth, Anonymous

others and keep their heads up and not to let them fail. ◆ I want to run a successful business that makes a difference in the world for all the minorities and the unfortunate and poor. ◆ I want to make my family proud by finishing school. Seeing my family struggle a lot I learned that I needed to make something to change that. I force myself to do better every day to help them and make them proud. ◆ Aprendí muchas cosas como los sueños de los demás. Aprendí una cosa muy importante – a sonar y que ningún obstáculo me impida sonar y pensar sobre mis metas que quiero lograr. Quiero independizarme, tener mis propias cosas. ◆

DREAMS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

◆ *My dream is to graduate from high school and go to a 4 year college. I would like to have a family in the future but first comes my education and God. I would like to become a pediatric nurse because I like to help people and especially children. I know I look like a guy that is kinda loud but I am real about my education because I want to be the first one in my family to go to college and be the first nurse in my family.* ◆ *My dream in life is to become an interpreter. My passion is to help those who are struggling to learn English. I personally think the worst feeling in the world is to come to a country and not to understand what an individual is saying to you. What if they're talking smack about you and you aren't able to understand? I want to be able to help immigrants become loyal here in the US. It would make me so proud if I can take that weight off their shoulders, because my parents have told me their stories. It*

“One of my dreams is to become a marine biologist or mammalogist. Another dream is to be happy at all times no matter the circumstances. I have learned through my past experiences that without happiness you will not accomplish what you want. I know I have a great future ahead of me.”

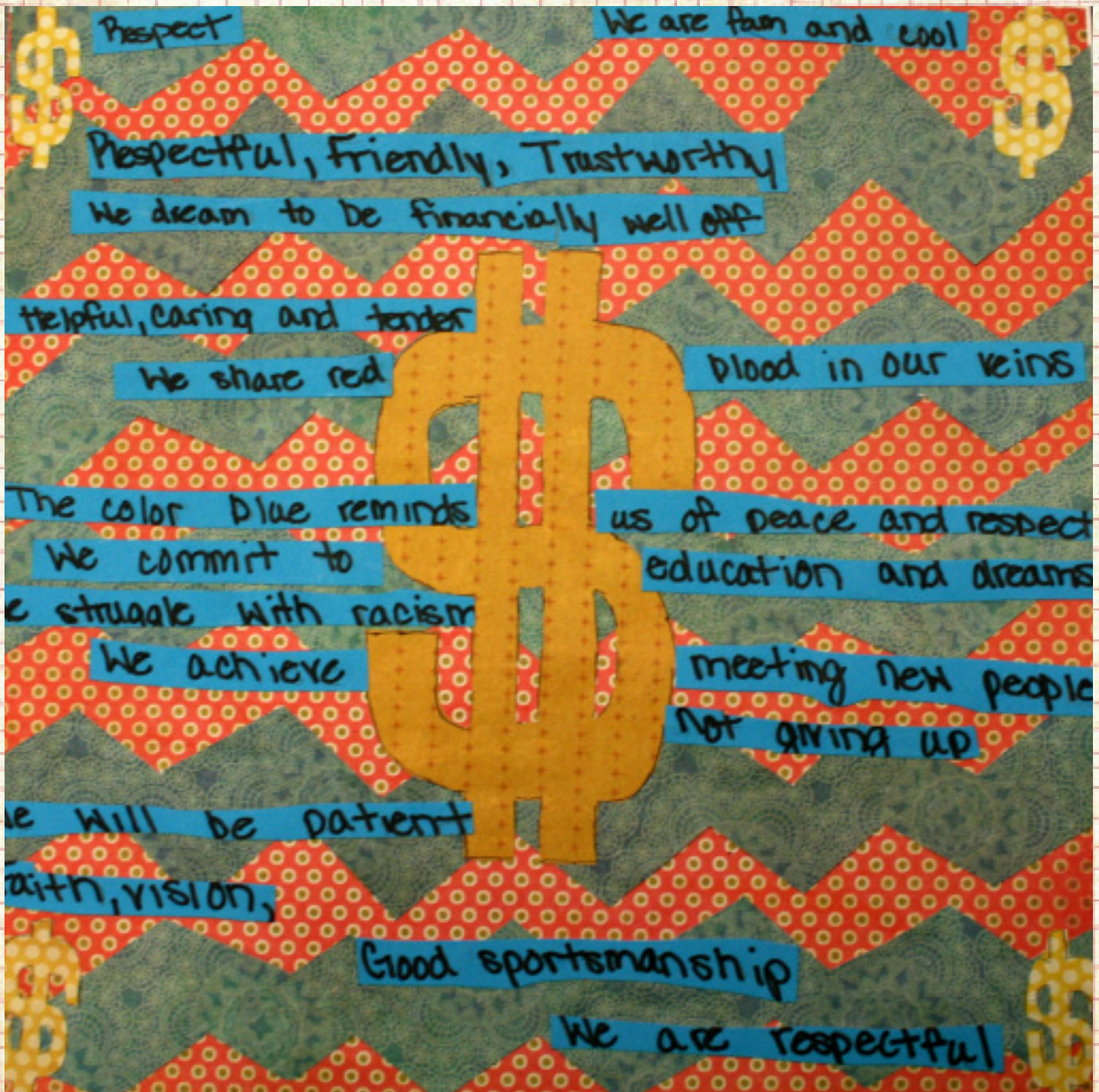
“Uno de mis sueños es llegar a ser un biólogo marino o mammologista. Otro sueño es de siempre ser feliz sin importar las circunstancias. He aprendido a través de mis experiencias que sin la felicidad no se pueden alcanzar los sueños que tenemos. Sé que tengo un gran futuro por delante.”

-Juntos Youth, Sampson County

would kill me not being able to help immigrants and just looking out for my own better future.

◆ *Aprendí muchas cosas como los sueños de los demás. Aprendí una cosa muy importante – a sonar y que ningún obstáculo me impida sonar y pensar sobre mis metas que quiero lograr. Quiero independizarme, tener mis propias cosas.* ◆ *I will be the first in my family to go to a 4 year university and that will be a good feeling to me. I will have the opportunity to encourage my brother and sister along with my parents to do the same.* ◆ *My goal is to become a professional entrepreneur and own a salon of my own. I want to make my family proud of what I have accomplished, especially my mom. I will achieve my dream by getting the support of my family and that want to see me succeed. Given that things may not turn out the way I want them to, I will keep a positive mind and just keep trying.* ◆ *I want to make my parents proud and help them when they need me to. I want to graduate high school with honors, attend college and get the best grades, and have them be able to proudly say that I graduated from college.* ◆ *My dream is to become an obstetrician. I've always had a thing for babies from an early age and I want to learn more about the delivery of babies. I've learned a little about the health field in high school, so far it's a little hard but struggling helps you achieve your dreams.* ◆

DREAMS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



◆ I want a better life and a career that I love the most. I want to help other people and teach people what is right and to be an example. I want to teach that the wrong way will take them to a bad place. I want people to have a better life. ◆ I want to be an architect or civil engineer and start my own company and eventually go to Mexico and help people in extreme poverty have a better place to live. ◆ I would like to be an immigration lawyer or study criminal justice laws because I hate it when innocent people go to jail. Also as far as immigration laws go I don't like seeing families torn apart by ICE just for not having papers. ◆ I want to travel the world and help the Hispanic communities of low economic status. I want to bring education to other kids and teens, in hopes of decreasing poverty and world hunger. ◆

DREAMS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Headstrong

We are determined

Resilient, motivation, Hispanics

Dream to achieve

Support, unique, cheerful

Strong, like a gray rock

After every storm, the sun always shines

We commit to what we say

We struggle but work pass it

We achieve great things

We will succeed

Role models, perseverance, bilingual

We continue and stick to our values

We are headstrong

LATINO

USA

EL SALVADOR

MEXICO

HONDURAS

◆ I have a lot of dreams. I want to go to 1 music festival before I graduate. I want to learn at least 3 languages and travel to Italy. My main dream would be to get into a good college. Going out of state was only something I could dream of, now I know it is possible. I have considered Florida, California, New York, or Virginia. I want to explore and meet new people. I may be a little shy but once I get over that I can be very outgoing. If I manage to study out of state I would also love to travel abroad. All in all I want to travel, even if it's just to a different state, I would love that. ◆ My dream is to become a sports commentator. I would love to see myself on TV on day and talk about sports. I want to inspire other people and tell them they can do it. I want to make my family proud of me. ◆

DREAMS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- ◆ *A dream is to graduate university and make people happy and be able to express themselves with my music. During devotionals we were able to express how we felt without being judged for what we have said. My thoughts keep reminding me about the people we have heard speak. Their voices echoing in my head motivate and inspire me to succeed in my own dreams.*
- ◆ *I dream of getting every child back to healthy as a pediatrician. Being able to keep my kids*

“I want to be a social worker so I can help mentor Hispanic teens to stay in high school and encourage them. I like to help people and want them to succeed in life.”

“Quiero ser un trabajador social para que pueda ayudar y animar a adolescentes hispanos que sigan en la escuela secundaria. Me gusta poder ayudar a la gente y quiero que tengan éxito en la vida”.

-Juntos Youth, Anonymous

healthy will be my greatest achievement. It seems that in order to even go to college, I must plan ahead. I will look for mentors who can really create a huge impact in my future. I have to act quickly and start to apply for universities, grants, scholarships and anything that can help me get closer to my goal. What I am sure about is I want to go to college and explore my possibilities of becoming someone my entire community looks up to. I must seek my comrade's aid to achieve such task. ◆ My dream is to make people happy, no matter what they go through. I can only imagine and I want to help. Knowing the feeling of being alone can blind you from making a better decision in the future. I want to be able to make my peers smile and forget what's going on in the moment because above all life is too short to be blinded by depression or stress. That's what I've learned from the speakers; don't be afraid to ask for help. We can get through challenges together, this is what I've learned at Juntos and it's an honor to be a part of this family. ◆ I want to help the world be more open minded and I want everyone to know we are all equal. We should treat everyone as our equal because they are. The things that make us different also make us alike in ways most people wouldn't know unless they paid attention. ◆



JUNTOS
Inspirado por Mayron Cordon
2015

*No importa la distancia, no importa el tiempo;
Juntos estaremos
contra todo viento.*

*Juntos lucharemos,
Juntos comeremos,
y juntos estaremos
por todos los inviernos.*

*Minutos pasan,
horas pasan
e incluso días;
pero juntos estaremos en cada vía.*

*Ayer compartimos,
hoy vivimos;
mañana partimos,
pero en todo lo que hicimos,
amables e inteligentes fuimos.*

*Somos un equipo
formado por culturas, países
e idiomas de todo tipo.
Lo irreparable
no está estable;
ahora todo el dolor
ha sido reemplazado con el calor,
y ahora que los conozco, tengo valor.*

*Gracias por sus favores,
gracias por su amistad,
ahora sé a quien buscar*

*Juntos recorreremos,
Juntos desmayaremos
y Juntos nos levantaremos .
Sé que nos iremos,
pero nuestras direcciones
y números daremos.*

*Con lágrimas en nuestros ojos, decimos adiós
pero no te preocupes,
yo me acordaré de vos,
con un poco de tos
nos abrazaremos los dos.*

*Pero no será la última vez
guardaré todo lo que tú me des.
Y ahora cada quien se va para su condado,
pero no te preocupes, la fiesta no... se... ha...
acabado!*

*Que siga la fiesta, pues
sé que fue una semana,
pero se siente como un mes.
No los quiero ver tristes,
cuidense y sean felices!*



Juntos Fortunes

Best wishes to our peers and community

Never give up! Always have faith! Be yourself! You can do it! We believe in you! Always try your best to succeed, it doesn't matter if others don't like you - just do you and strive harder! **Si se puede.** Keep trying, don't give up. Work hard and you'll get there. I believe in you. Try and you will. You can do it. Believe in yourself. Work harder to achieve your goals. Never give up, follow what you want, be strong, reach to the top, never say never, never give up. Never let go of a dream, if you do it will shatter. Life is hard but never give up on what you are doing. We all have something special. Keep trying and keep calm. **Tú eres diferente.** Learn to motivate yourself and you can achieve many things. Everyone has potential to get up and do things, it is up to us to do great things. Keep trying and working hard and you will reach the top. You will reach your goal. Live to please nobody but yourself. I want to see you become a beautiful successful independent person. Don't give up, it will only get better, we got this! You are an amazing person and I will always support you in all your decisions and achievements. Always have faith in yourself, never give up and always be confident. No matter what remember that your imperfections make you perfect. **Eres fuerte.** No matter how much you fail, keep trying. Keep it up, you are going to have a great future. You are very smart. There will always be people who talk about you and hate on you, but they're only jealous of what they can't have. You just gotta live with it, it's just life. We want to succeed for a better life. Live life like there is no tomorrow. To succeed you must believe. **No te dejas por vencida.** Your future is bright. Keep trying. Go on the right path. Ignore the haters! There is always going to be an obstacle in life and no matter what it is don't let it stop you from achieving your goals. Dream today, achieve tomorrow. Team work makes the dream work. Shoot for the moon, if you don't make it you'll land among the stars. I am capable of doing anything I want and I can achieve my goal if I put my mind to it.

- Juntos Youth

