

VIP®

YEAR 14
No. 33
FREE
MIAMI FL. 2026

From High School Sweethearts to Mr. & Mrs. Mata

Some love stories begin quietly — with a simple conversation, a shared laugh, or a chance meeting at a friend's house. Amarette and Michael Mata's story began just like that, during their junior year of high school.

Amarette was a student at Saint Brendan High School, and Michael attended Christopher Columbus High School. They met at a small gathering at a friend's home, unaware that this moment would mark the beginning of a journey that would shape their lives. What started as phone calls soon turned into a beautiful relationship built on friendship, trust, and genuine connection.

Their final years of high school were filled with unforgettable milestones: homecomings, proms, graduations, family vacations, and countless shared memories. Yet one of the most meaningful decisions came after graduation — choosing to continue their journey together.

Both Amarette and Michael decided to stay in Miami and attend Florida International University. Amarette pursued a degree in Finance, while Michael studied International Business. During their college years, like so many young people, they faced unexpected challenges, including the global pandemic. There were moments of uncertainty, highs and lows — but through it all, their love remained strong, steady, and deeply rooted.

Graduation day became another powerful symbol of their partnership, as they walked together to receive their college diplomas, a moment that filled their families with pride and gratitude.

Today, both continue to grow professionally while staying close to their roots and family values. Michael is dedicated to his career in the freight-forwarding industry, while Amarette has become an essential pillar of our community. She is the General Manager of VIP 305, the right hand of the organization, as well as an integral leader in our nonprofit Very Important Purpose, serving as Director of VIP Summer Camp Service Project, where her passion, leadership, and heart shine every day.



Nearly two years ago, during a magical vacation in Greece, Michael proposed, marking a new chapter in their love story. Time seemed to fly, and on January 17th, surrounded by love and faith, they said "I do" in a beautiful and intimate church in Homestead, promising each other a lifetime of love, respect, and commitment.



We chose to share Amarette and Michael's story with our youth because it reminds us all that true love exists. That love can be real, strong, and meaningful — even when it begins at a young age. High school sweethearts do exist, and when built on respect, values, and mutual support, love can grow and evolve beautifully over time.

As a community, as a family, and as VIP, we are incredibly proud of them. We celebrate not only their marriage, but the journey that brought them here — and we wish Mr. and Mrs. Mata a lifetime filled with love, purpose, and shared dreams.

Front cover captured by UDS Photo (@udsphoto).

VIP Summer Service Project

Summer Camp

A WEEK OF PURPOSE AND IMPACT

Summer is more than a break from school—it's an opportunity to grow, serve, and discover purpose. The VIP Summer Camp Service Project is not your typical summer camp. It's a transformational, sleep-away experience designed for teens who want to make a real difference while building independence, leadership, and lifelong friendships. From the moment campers arrive on Monday morning until they are picked up on Saturday, they embark on a week filled with meaningful service, hands-on learning, and unforgettable moments—all in a safe, structured, and inspiring environment.

Each week follows a powerful rhythm that blends community service with personal growth. Campers actively serve vulnerable populations through field trips and on-site collaborations, including:

- Individuals experiencing homelessness
- Children and adults with special needs
- Foster families and low-income communities
- Women's shelters and hospitals
- Animal welfare and environmental projects

This immersive approach allows teens to understand real-world challenges while developing empathy, responsibility, and social awareness.

NEW FACILITIES, GREATER COMFORT

This summer, campers will enjoy our newly completed facilities, featuring expanded space, an additional restroom, and enhanced comfort—creating an even better environment for learning, connection, and growth.

INDEPENDENCE THAT BUILDS CONFIDENCE

Living away from home, campers learn responsibility through daily routines, teamwork, and shared responsibilities. While the work is meaningful, fun is always part of the journey—because making a difference should also be joyful.

LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

VIP Summer Camp goes far beyond service hours. Campers participate in guest-led workshops and activities, which may include:

- Leadership and college preparation
- CPR & First Aid Certification
- Financial literacy and investment basics
- Sports, cooking, yoga, and wellness
- Therapeutic and creative services
- Etiquette, makeup artistry, and life skills

This year, we are proud to introduce a new partnership with a professional training program, offering a Leadership and Learning Course designed to strengthen academic paths and prepare students for future college applications. Industry professionals will guide campers throughout this enriching experience.

COMMUNITY SERVICE THAT COUNTS

Campers can earn up to **100 community service hours** during their stay—an invaluable benefit for school requirements and college applications. Active participation, respect, and teamwork ensure a rewarding experience for everyone.

This is more than a camp.
It's where purpose meets summer—and where teens become leaders with heart.

Scan. Register.
Make Summer Matter.



CAMP OVERVIEW

AVAILABLE WEEKS: 8 SESSIONS	DROP-OFF: MONDAY, 9:00–10:00 AM	COST: $1,400 (ALL-INCLUSIVE)	PICK-UP: SATURDAY (TIME TBA)
LOCATION: 12300 SW 240TH STREET, HOMESTEAD, FL 33032			DEPOSIT: $400 (NON-REFUNDABLE)

INCLUDES TRANSPORTATION, ACCOMMODATIONS, MEALS, MATERIALS, CAMP T-SHIRT, REUSABLE WATER BOTTLE, AND BACKPACK

SOME REVIEWS













★★★★★ 5 months ago

My daughter had a great time for the summer camp they offer. The counselors were amazing and really took care of the girls while they were away. Thank you so much for everything you all
Do.

This program is truly exceptional. The week was thoughtfully designed to offer a wide range of service opportunities, each addressing different areas of need within the community. The counselors were loving, welcoming, and served as outstanding role models. The leadership was phenomenal—creating a warm, supportive environment that made the boys feel right at home.

Our son had a wonderful experience. He came home inspired, grateful, and full of stories about the people he met and the impact he witnessed. We're incredibly thankful for this opportunity—not only for the growth it sparked in our child, but also for the meaningful exposure to the needs that exist right in our own backyard.

Thank you for making this kind of experience possible.

★★★★★ 4 months ago

A fantastic and meaningful experience for teens! Set in a beautiful farmhouse, this community service camp helps them connect with nature, meet new friends, and volunteer in ways that truly matter. Through inspiring talks, creative activities like artwork, and hands-on service, they're exposed to the realities many people face—especially those in need or living with disabilities—and learn to think beyond themselves. Even small things, like taking turns to shower, teach empathy and mindfulness. A powerful way to grow and give back.

★★★★★ 4 months ago

My daughters had an amazing experience at VIP305Miami! From the moment they arrived, the staff was welcoming, attentive, and made them feel comfortable right away. The camp is well-organized. The girls made new friends and loved every minute of it. Highly recommend VIP305Miami to any parent looking for a camp that's both fun and enriching

★★★★★ 5 months ago

Great camp for high schoolers to do community hours

★★★★★ 5 months ago

Una experiencia súper enriquecedora para mi hija y para nosotros como familia , muchos aprendizajes, vivencias y enseñanzas con diversión . Gracias infinitas y 💯 recomendado

★★★★★ 4 months ago

This camp was an amazing experience for our son. He had an incredible week serving our community and making friendships that will hopefully last a lifetime. He's already asked to go back next summer. Thank you for creating a safe space for our kids to grow and experience serving their community.



STUDENTS SERVING WITH PURPOSE.
SCHOOLS CREATING REAL CHANGE.

VIP CONNECT CLUB

During the first semester of the school year, VIP Connect Club made a powerful impact across participating schools by engaging students in meaningful, hands-on service focused on supporting vulnerable communities throughout South Florida.
More than a school club, VIP Connect is a purpose-driven initiative that encourages students to step outside the classroom and into real-life service—where empathy, leadership, and action come together.

Our Purpose

VIP Connect Club was created to connect students with real community needs, helping them understand that service takes many forms. The club's mission is to inspire young leaders to serve with heart, respect, and responsibility—while building inclusive spaces that welcome individuals with special needs, families in need, and underserved populations.
Through consistent service and intentional connection, students learn that true impact begins with showing up.

Serving Vulnerable Communities

Throughout the first semester, VIP Connect Club members actively participated in a wide range of service initiatives, including:

- Preparing and distributing meals and sandwiches for individuals experiencing homelessness
- Supporting community food efforts and outreach programs
- Engaging in inclusive activities with children and adults with special needs
- Collaborating with shelters, families, and local organizations
- Volunteering at community events focused on care, dignity, and inclusion

Each activity allowed students to see firsthand how small actions can create meaningful change.

Leadership Through Service

VIP Connect Club empowers students to take leadership roles by organizing projects, working as teams, and leading service efforts within their schools. These experiences help students develop compassion, accountability, and communication skills—qualities that extend far beyond service hours.
For many students, VIP Connect becomes one of the most impactful parts of their school experience.

A Semester of Real Impact

This first semester showed that when young people are given the opportunity to serve intentionally, they rise to the occasion. VIP Connect Clubs became spaces where:

- Service becomes purpose
- Inclusion becomes action
- Students become leaders

And this is only the beginning.

What's Next

As VIP Connect Club continues to grow, the second semester will bring new service opportunities, expanded partnerships, and even more ways for students to give back—strengthening communities and shaping compassionate leaders for the future.

INTERESTED IN BRINGING VIP CONNECT CLUB TO YOUR SCHOOL?

If you believe your school is the ideal place to create meaningful impact and inspire students to serve with purpose, we'd love to hear from you.

📩 Contact us at: **info@vip-305.com**

Let's work together to build inclusive, service-driven communities—one school at a time.

VIP CONNECT CLUBS:
REAL ACTIONS, REAL IMPACT

Highlighting the work of some of our VIP Connect Clubs during the first semester

Throughout the first semester, some of our VIP Connect Clubs across different schools have been actively engaged in meaningful service projects, creating real connections and leaving a positive impact on our community. Below are just a few highlights of the incredible work our students have done.

Archbishop Coleman Carroll High School

On September 17, members of the VIP Connect Club from Archbishop Coleman Carroll participated in a special Day of Service at our foundation, where they spent the morning sharing with our friends from the WOW Center.

Together, they danced, sang, painted, planted, and celebrated inclusion in a joyful and meaningful way.

It was a beautiful morning full of connection and purpose—one that will remain in our hearts forever.



Belen Jesuit Preparatory School

The VIP Connect Club at Belen had the wonderful opportunity to collaborate with Breakthrough Miami, welcoming more than 60 children to the Belen campus.

The experience went beyond providing food—it was about inclusion, games, laughter, and quality time. Our volunteers created a warm and welcoming environment where meaningful connections were made.

Miami Arts Studio

In just one single day, the VIP Connect Club at Miami Arts Studio prepared over 600 sandwiches. Thanks to their teamwork and generosity, we were able to provide nutritious snacks to individuals and families in need within our community.

Their efforts demonstrate how collective action can quickly turn compassion into impact.

Christopher Columbus High School

This semester, the VIP Connect Club at Columbus made a strong impact through the dedication of its members. Students participated in multiple community initiatives, including the preparation of sandwiches, cooking for the homeless, the Beyond Labels initiative, and meaningful experiences with individuals with special needs.

Their commitment reflects the true spirit of service and leadership in action.



✨ These stories represent just a small part of the ongoing work of our VIP Connect Clubs, where students continue to transform empathy into action—one project at a time.

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PRESDIENT ROBERT DOMINGUEZ & DEAN KELLY DOMINGUEZ

OUR LADY OF LOURDES ACADEMY HOSTS

CHRISTMAS-THEMED SERVICE EVENT: LOLA'S ENCHANTED FOREST



"Our Lola's events are a beautiful expression of who we are and what we value,"

Olga Martinez

Dean of enrollment and engagement.

This event, one of the school's three signature service traditions, highlighted the "sisterhood" and compassion that define the Lourdes experience. By putting faith into action, students ensured that every guest felt celebrated and supported through simple, meaningful acts of kindness.





Special visit from Santa and craft station

On Dec. 10, Our Lady of Lourdes Academy hosted "Lola's Enchanted Forest," a festive service event for 177 local children. More than 200 student volunteers transformed the campus into a winter wonderland featuring snow, activity stations, and a visit from Santa.

The event brought the school's mission to life through community and joy, ensuring every guest went home with a toy and holiday magic.





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GIVE MIAMI DAY 2025:

Rediscovering Our Inner Child to Give Back

Donate now!

In 2025, our Give Miami Day campaign was inspired by a simple yet powerful idea: when we are children, our hearts are open, our intentions are pure, and our instinct to help others comes naturally.

Guided by creativity and supported by artificial intelligence, we chose to step back into our childhood. Our CEO, VIP Connect Club presidents, and dedicated volunteers transformed into younger versions of themselves, sharing a message of hope and inviting our community to support a mission built on empathy, inclusion, and service.

This campaign was not just about visuals or innovation—it was about reconnecting with the true meaning of giving. It reminded us that kindness begins early and grows stronger when nurtured through action.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who supported Very Important Purpose. Your generosity fuels our work and allows our foundation to continue moving forward. We deeply value this support, as every contribution helps sustain the programs and opportunities we create for our youth and the communities we serve.

Thanks to our supporters, we currently host 10 to 15 events each month, empowering young people to serve in positive ways, assist vulnerable populations, and grow into compassionate leaders. Our mission remains focused on shaping a future where today's youth become tomorrow's community-driven adults.

If you would like to continue supporting our mission, scan the QR Code below to donate directly. Your contribution helps us create more events, expand food assistance efforts, and strengthen the impact we make throughout our community.

Thank you for believing in our purpose and helping us move forward.

@miamifoundation + @vip305miami

GIVE MIAMI DAY 11.20.25

Saint Brendan Elementary:

A Day of Service with Big Hearts.

We would like to begin by sincerely thanking Saint Brendan Elementary for the trust they placed in our organization and for the incredible job they are doing shaping compassionate, service-minded students. It is always an honor to welcome schools that believe in the power of giving back and leading by example.



In November, we had the opportunity to host the 7th grade students from Saint Brendan Elementary for a meaningful day of service at our Westchester location. During this impactful experience, the students worked together to prepare more than 600 sandwiches and homeless bags for members of our community in need.



The enthusiasm and joy these young students showed while serving was truly inspiring. Their energy, teamwork, and genuine desire to help reminded us why creating these experiences matters so much. There is nothing more rewarding for us than being the bridge that connects young people to service and helps cultivate a lifelong commitment to giving back.











If your school is interested in organizing a service experience like this, please contact us at info@vip-305.com







Beyond Labels:

Fashion With Purpose, Inclusion With Heart

Beyond Labels was born from a simple but powerful idea: people are more than their diagnosis, their abilities, or the labels society places on them. This initiative was created to open doors, change perceptions, and give individuals with special needs a platform where their voices, creativity, and talents are not only included—but celebrated.

During the first semester of the school year, Beyond Labels has grown far beyond what we initially imagined. Through multiple events, workshops, community collaborations, and hands-on experiences, we learned that inclusion is not just something you talk about—it is something you build, experience, and live every day. Each activity became an opportunity to listen, to learn, and to truly understand the impact that representation and visibility can have on individuals with special needs.

This semester allowed our team, volunteers, and participants to dive deeply into the true purpose of Beyond Labels. We witnessed confidence grow, creativity flourish, and connections form in the most genuine way. Every interaction reinforced our belief that when people are given space to express themselves authentically, incredible things happen.

Beyond Labels is not just a fashion concept—it is a movement. A movement that challenges stereotypes, promotes self-expression, and invites the community to see inclusion through a new lens. Fashion becomes the language, but the message is much bigger: everyone deserves to be seen, heard, and valued exactly as they are.

Now, as we reflect on everything accomplished during this first semester, we are excited and ready to take the next big step. Over the coming months, we will be preparing our first official Beyond Labels Fashion Show, where we will proudly present our first inclusive clothing collection. This collection will represent stories, personalities, and individuality—designed and inspired by people with special needs, not for them, but with them.

This upcoming fashion show will be more than a runway event. It will be a celebration of courage, creativity, and community. A moment where fashion meets purpose, and where inclusion takes center stage.

Beyond Labels is just getting started—and the journey ahead promises to be powerful, meaningful, and transformative.

For more information, follow us on social media @beyondlabelsbyvip

A New Generation of Purpose-Driven Leadership

Meet Simon Aljure-Jauregui, an American Heritage student and founder of Project Manos for Homes. Driven by a mission to build safe housing for families in Colombia, Simon partnered with Very Important Purpose (VIP) to expand his reach and serve local communities. From building homes abroad to hosting holiday events for the homeless in Florida, Simón exemplifies the young leadership and empathy needed to inspire a better future.









1. Can you tell us how Project Manos for Homes started and what inspired you to create this project in Colombia?
Project Manos for Homes rose from my deep desire to give back to my community. I was inspired by the Catalina Muñoz foundation in Colombia and, after my grandfather connected us, I decided to follow in their footsteps. Since they had no U.S. representation, I collaborated with the Sereniti Foundation to raise funds, leading to our first home build in February 2025.

2. Why did you decide to focus on building homes for families with limited resources? Was there a specific moment that motivated you?
My profound love for my Colombian roots made it hard to see families on the news losing their homes to landslides or poverty. I thought, "What better way to put an end to this than by giving them a place to live and start their lives fresh?" That thought greatly motivated me and still keeps me going today.

3. What does it feel like to see a family receive their new home for the first time?
It's a feeling so difficult to put into words. Experiencing the warm embrace of a grateful mother who finally has a home for her children is an indescribable sentiment. Knowing I changed a family's life keeps my feet on the ground and makes me all the more grateful for everything God has given me.

4. As a young person, what challenges have you faced while leading a service project like this, and how did you overcome them?
Balancing school and activities while managing this project has been a strong challenge. It requires staying disciplined and organized with so many moving parts. When logistical issues arise, I've found that collaborating as a team and thinking in a level-headed manner is always the most effective way to solve the problem.

5. What inspires you to continue helping others, even when the work is physically and emotionally demanding?
Helping others will always be an enjoyment for me, but when my body starts to give in after a long day of building, I put my faith in the Lord to keep me strong. The sincere gratitude of a family is always greater than whatever physical or emotional exhaustion the process brings.

6. How has this project changed you personally or shaped the way you see the world?
This journey has taught me the importance of giving without expecting anything and remaining humble. I live an incredibly blessed life, and I've learned to keep my feet on the ground and think of those who do not have what I have. Being grateful and humble are the two most important emotional lessons I've gained.

7. What role do volunteers play in your project, and why is teamwork so important in what you do?
Without volunteers, this project wouldn't be what it is today—they do about 95% of the construction work. Having a larger team allows us to cover more ground and add more details in less time. Aside from physical help, teamwork allows us to solve problems efficiently and brings different ideas to the foundation.

8. What have you learned from the families and communities you've worked with in Colombia?
I've learned resourcefulness from these families; they always find a way to make something out of nothing. I recently worked with a mother who continues to support her children despite extreme physical and personal hardships. Their resilience teaches me to never let an opportunity pass by in my own life.

9. Would you encourage other young people to partner with organizations that support youth-led service projects, and why do you think that support is important?
It is highly beneficial to partner with a foundation like Very Important Purpose. Their connections have made setting up events and connecting with the community significantly easier. Having a group you can count on is vital for problem-solving and knowing that everyone is collaborating to resolve issues.

10. Looking ahead, what projects do you hope to develop next, and how does it feel to know that you now have the support of a strong foundation like Very Important Purpose to help you grow your impact?
We hope to construct our third and fourth homes by March 2026 and eventually expand into South Florida. I'm also looking into creating a service club at my school, American Heritage. Knowing I'm backed by VIP is reassuring; at 15, having mentors like Yessika helps ensure I'm making the right decisions for the community.

GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC SCHOOL

STUDENTS SERVE WITH PURPOSE

On January 31, Very Important Purpose partnered with Good Shepherd Catholic School for a special and exclusive service opportunity in support of the homeless community. Approximately 40 students came together, arriving fully prepared with all necessary materials to make the event possible. Together, they prepared sandwiches and assembled lunch bags that included snacks and water to distribute to individuals experiencing homelessness.

This meaningful collaboration was a wonderful experience and an honor for VIP. We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to work alongside such dedicated students. A special thank you to Mr. Pages and Principal Hernandez for placing their trust in VIP and for creating an environment where students feel safe, happy, and inspired to serve with purpose.



From Classroom to Campus:

SAINT BRENDAN STUDENTS VISIT UM ATHLETICS MARKETING DEPARTMENT





Students enrolled in Leadership Communication Skills 1 and Marketing 1 at Saint Brendan High School recently participated in an engaging and educational field trip to the University of Miami's Athletics Marketing & Event Experience Department. The visit provided students with an exclusive behind-the-scenes perspective into the dynamic operations that drive collegiate athletics, from fan engagement and brand development to the coordination of high-energy game-day experiences.

The students were graciously hosted by Saint Brendan alumna Cecilia Esteban '08, who currently serves as the University of Miami's Spirit Coordinator and Head Cheerleading Coach. Esteban shared her inspiring professional journey and offered valuable insight into her multifaceted role within the athletics department. Her responsibilities include overseeing the Cheerleading Team, the Sunsations Dance Team, and the iconic Sebastian the Ibis Mascot Program—each playing a vital role in creating the spirited atmosphere that defines University of Miami athletics.

Throughout the visit, students explored the many components involved in successful sports marketing and event execution. They learned about event planning, promotional campaigns, social media engagement, and the logistical coordination required to manage large-scale athletic events. Emphasis was placed on the importance of collaboration, creativity, leadership, and adaptability in a fast-paced professional environment.

This immersive experience allowed Saint Brendan students to connect classroom concepts with real-world applications, while also exposing them to potential career paths in marketing, communications, and sports management.

The visit highlighted how passion, teamwork, and school pride can be transformed into meaningful and exciting careers, leaving students inspired and motivated as they consider their future professional goals.





THE POSTS YOU LOVED. THE MOMENTS

YOU CAN'T FORGET

A collection of the most scroll-worthy highlights from our Instagram feed.

























@vip305miami

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Andina Driving School has proudly served the Miami-Dade community since 1991 as a family-owned business dedicated to safe, supportive, and confidence-building driver education.
In 2015, Carlo Monzon, son of the founder, took over the school and introduced a modern, personalized approach to instruction. Carlo holds an MBA in Healthcare Management and brings a structured, student-focused philosophy that emphasizes safety, patience, and individual learning needs.

Carlo works alongside his sister, Kattya Monzon, a certified driving instructor and third-party administrator. Kattya leads the Driving Skills Test program and plays a key role in overseeing instruction for students who benefit from additional guidance. Together, Carlo and Kattya share a passion for teaching and a commitment to treating every student with respect, empathy, and care.













Welcome to

ANDINA DRIVING SCHOOL



With 28 certified instructors and more than 15,000 hours of teaching experience, Andina Driving School has successfully graduated over 25,000 students. The school offers comprehensive programs for minors, adults, and students with learning differences, including anxiety, ADHD, and Asperger's. Instruction covers every step of the driving process—from in-person preparation for the knowledge test and behind-the-wheel training to refresher programs and the official DMV Driving Skills Test, which is offered on site with vehicles provided.

Rooted in family values and a deep commitment to safety and accessibility, Andina Driving School continues to help students of all ages and abilities gain confidence, independence, and lifelong safe driving skills on Miami-Dade roads.

Contact & Bookings
8584 SW 8th St, Miami, FL 33144
305-271-8117 | 305-385-7272
info@andinadrivingschool.com
www.andinadrivingschool.com

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

KATERINA FARINAS



Katerina (Katy) from Our Lady of Lourdes Academy became involved with VIP while attending Saint Agatha in middle school. Since then, she has been an important part of our VIP Summer Camp every year and has brought us countless laughs.

ORIANA LANDER

We met Oriana (Ori) from Immaculata La Salle during her freshman year of high school and have had the privilege of having her involved in countless VIP events. She even hosted her own service project, a pickleball tournament, and has shown herself to be a dedicated and authentic leader.

LAZARO ACOSTA

We met Lazaro in middle school when he participated in our very first VIP Summer Camp. He later helped open one of the first VIP Connect Clubs at Archbishop Coleman Carroll, where he now serves as President. We are grateful for his passion for making a difference.

ANTHONY KIAMI

We met Anthony during his freshmen year at Belen Jesuit, and through him we have witnessed one of the most passionate and kind-hearted students who consistently goes above and beyond. We are honored to know Anthony and know his future is bright.

MIA MARTINEZ

We met Mia during her sophomore year at Westminster Christian School when she participated in our first VIP Sleepaway Summer Camp. Her positive attitude and kind heart shine through her service projects, and we are confident her future will be filled with service.

ELIZABETH ROSELL



We met Elizabeth from Saint Brendan High School during her sophomore year when she attended our Summer Camp. She went on to participate in countless VIP events and even launched her own nonprofit and service project. They are attending college at Nova Southeastern University.

A Letter to My Son



Sese,

As you complete your senior year at Christopher Columbus High School, I wanted to pause this moment and dedicate these words to you—in what will be one of the last editions of this magazine before your graduation.

As your mom, it has been one of the greatest honors of my life to walk by your side during these past four years: supporting you, watching you grow, and seeing you turn your ideas into real impact through the VIP Connect Club.

Your leadership, your sensitivity, and your genuine love for serving others fill my heart with pride. You don't just talk about helping the community—you lead with your actions. With that heart and your unique personality, I know you will go very far in life, always leaving a meaningful mark and creating spaces where people feel seen, valued, and supported.

It is truly a blessing to know that you will remain here in our Miami as you begin this next chapter, attending the Florida International University (FIU) Honors Program. I am certain that from there, you will continue to serve and inspire, just as you always have.

I am incredibly proud of everything you have accomplished with VIP Connect, of being part of the idea and creation of Beyond Labels, of your constant support at every event, and of your dedication to our mission. From working in every summer camp since you were just 13 years old, to your ongoing commitment to helping us grow VIP and take it to another level—you have shown responsibility, passion, and heart beyond your years.

Thank you for being who you are. Thank you for your generosity, your leadership, and your love for others.
I love you endlessly.

With all my love and pride,
Yessika & Amy
VIP Staff















SPECIAL CORNER

SERVICE, INCLUSION, AND PURPOSE: DIVINE SAVIOR SCHOOL

Divine Savior SCHOOL

On November 7th, we had the privilege of being invited to Divine Savior School, a school dedicated to supporting and empowering students with special needs, to be part of one of their meaningful Service Days.

On this special day, we came together to prepare sandwiches alongside the students, with the shared goal of helping members of our community in need. What made this experience especially powerful was the spirit in which it was carried out—filled with joy, collaboration, and genuine care for others. The students participated with enthusiasm and pride, demonstrating that service knows no limits and that everyone has the ability to give, contribute, and make an impact.





Spending this Service Day with the Divine Savior School community was truly a pleasure. It was a beautiful reminder that inclusion and service go hand in hand, and that when given the opportunity, individuals of all abilities can lead with compassion and purpose.

At VIP 305 and Very Important Purpose, inclusion is at the heart of everything we do. Moments like this reinforce our mission to create spaces where everyone is valued, included, and encouraged to serve the community in meaningful ways.

We are deeply grateful to Divine Savior School for inviting us to be part of this inspiring day, and we look forward to many more opportunities to come together —united in service, inclusion, and love for our community.







A JOURNEY OF PURPOSE:

VERY IMPORTANT PURPOSE EXPANDS TO **BOLIVIA**



After a meaningful visit to Bolivia, Very Important Purpose is proud to begin organizing its first international service trip to La Paz. What started as a connection rooted in shared values and service has now grown into an exciting opportunity for our students to make a global impact.

During our visit, we had the privilege of learning more about Fundación Alalay, an organization dedicated to supporting children and adolescents living in vulnerable situations. Their commitment to prevention, education, and social reintegration deeply aligns with our mission of forming compassionate leaders through service.

Inspired by what we experienced, Very Important Purpose is now preparing to launch its first official international service experience. Our goal is to organize this transformative trip during Easter Break, giving students the opportunity to step beyond their comfort zones and serve with purpose.

Participants will engage in meaningful hands-on projects, educational activities, creative workshops, and community support initiatives—working directly with children and families while also learning about resilience, cultural identity, and the true power of collaboration.

This journey represents more than travel. It is about growth, empathy, leadership, and understanding the responsibility we carry as global citizens. It is about building bridges between communities and serving with humility and heart.

We are currently exploring interest for this first Easter Break service trip to Bolivia.

If you are interested in joining us or organizing a service trip with your school or student group, we would love to hear from you.

📩 Please contact us at info@vip-305.com for more information about this upcoming international service opportunity.



Together, we serve.
Together, we grow.





Jaimy herrera

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Conchita Espinosa Honors 2026 ISSF STAR Students



Each year, the Independent Schools of South Florida (ISSF) selects students who exemplify excellence in ability, achievement, and commitment through its STARS recognition program. For 2026, Conchita Espinosa Academy (CEA) proudly celebrates Sophie De La Blanca, Lorena Tabora, and Karina Canto as its honored STAR students.

Sophie De La Blanca is recognized for her strong academic foundation, generosity of spirit, and long-standing dedication to the arts, particularly music. Lorena Tabora is celebrated for her disciplined approach to academics and her passion for both music and dance, consistently demonstrating perseverance and quiet leadership. Karina Canto is honored for her outstanding citizenship and leadership, as well as her commitment to dance and her ability to uplift those around her.
Together, these students reflect the values of excellence, integrity, and dedication that define the Conchita Espinosa Academy community.

conchita™ ESPINOSA ACADEMY

A JOURNEY OF FAITH, SERVICE, AND CONNECTION

CARROLLTON SCHOOL OF THE SACRED HEART

In early November, students from Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart, alongside alumnae and parents, traveled to Sumpango, Guatemala for a mission experience rooted in faith and service. During their time at the Home of Misioneros del Camino, they formed genuine connections with 54 children, sharing laughter, conversation, and moments of reflection that transcended language and culture. Witnessing the resilience and joy of the children deeply impacted the group, encouraging students to step outside their comfort zones and live out compassion in a tangible way. This journey strengthened their sense of purpose and reinforced the importance of serving others with humility, love, and an open heart.







✦ EDITORIAL MESSAGE – VIP 305 |

A MESSAGE FROM VIP

AS WE PRESENT OUR FIRST EDITION OF 2026, OUR HEARTS ARE FILLED WITH GRATITUDE.

TO OUR READERS, VOLUNTEERS, FAMILIES, PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS, SPONSORS, CLIENTS, AND OUR BEAUTIFUL SOUTH FLORIDA COMMUNITY—THANK YOU FOR STANDING WITH US THROUGHOUT 2025. YOUR SUPPORT, TRUST, AND BELIEF IN OUR MISSION HAVE BEEN THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND EVERYTHING WE DO.

LAST YEAR WAS A YEAR OF GROWTH, IMPACT, AND UNFORGETTABLE MILESTONES. ONE OF OUR PROUDEST ACHIEVEMENTS WAS THE PROGRESS MADE TOWARD THE CONSTRUCTION OF OUR FOUNDATION SPACE IN HOMESTEAD—AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD IN CREATING MORE OPPORTUNITIES, INCLUSION, AND SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AND THE YOUTH WHO SERVE ALONGSIDE THEM. NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOU.

AS WE MOVE FORWARD INTO 2026, WE DO SO WITH BIGGER GOALS, STRONGER DREAMS, AND AN EVEN DEEPER COMMITMENT TO SERVING OUR COMMUNITY. THIS YEAR IS ABOUT EXPANDING OUR REACH, STRENGTHENING OUR PROGRAMS, AND CONTINUING TO CREATE MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCES THAT INSPIRE SERVICE, COMPASSION, AND UNITY.

WE INVITE YOU TO CONTINUE WALKING THIS JOURNEY WITH US. LET'S GROW TOGETHER, SERVE TOGETHER, AND WORK TOGETHER FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OUR COMMUNITY.

THANK YOU FOR BELIEVING IN OUR PURPOSE.

THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF THE VIP FAMILY.
WE WISH YOU A TRULY SPECTACULAR YEAR AHEAD.
WITH GRATITUDE,

VIP 305 TEAM



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