INTERVIEW
with Mia Martínez
Passion for helping others

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A Night with Purpose



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INTERVIEW

WITH MIA MARTÍNEZ

VIP 305 MAGAZINE COVER FEATURE

My name is Mia Martínez. I'm 18 years old and I've always loved animals and caring for others. I am a student at Westminster Christian School. My brother, Lukas Martínez, and I started this organization because we beliVeve every child deserves a chance to grow, learn, and dream big. Giving back to kids in need is something that inspires us every day.

Mia, what first sparked your passion for helping others?
A few years ago my family and I traveled to Africa and I saw something I'll never forget—children walking miles to school, some without shoes, learning in classrooms without desks, computers, or even enough notebooks. It made me realize how lucky I am and how unfair it is that so many kids don't have even the basics for their education. When I came home, I wanted to do something, so together with my brother, I started "Hands Together 4 Kids," a project run by kids, for kids.

Do you remember the first time you participated in a community project? How did it make you feel?
I think it was giving sandwiches to the homeless people. I felt a mix of joy, confidence, and even a little surprise at how much impact one small action can have.

What message would you give to other young people who want to help but don't know where to start?
Here is my advice: you don't have to know everything before you start. You just need to care about something and be willing to try. Never think you are too young to make a difference. When kids take action, it inspires everyone.

You've taken your help beyond our borders, to places like Colombia, Cuba, Guatemala and Haiti. How did those projects begin?
Our projects in Colombia and Haiti started because we saw a real need and felt like we had to do something. In Colombia, we noticed that a school didn't have enough desks or computers for the kids to learn properly. In Haiti it was similar—kids were trying to study without the basic things they need.

What surprised you the most about each country and the children you met there?
What surprised me the most was how happy and curious kids are, even when they don't have much. In Colombia, the kids would get excited over something as simple as a new desk, notebook, or computer.
It made me realize that what kids really need isn't always money or fancy things—it's support and opportunities.

Is there a particular story of a child or family that you will always carry in your heart?
One story I'll always remember was when we were in Africa. We saw some kids playing soccer, but they didn't have proper shoes. They were kicking around a ball made from a plastic bag. I was amazed watching them have so much fun with so little. Later, my brother and I gave each of them a new pair of shoes and a real soccer ball to play with. They were so grateful and happy. Something so simple made such a huge difference for them.

As you prepare for college, what are your plans for your studies?
As I get ready for college, I'm really excited to study something that will help me make an even bigger difference in the world—something that will teach me how to help kids and communities in need more effectively.

Do you plan to continue your community work while in college?
Absolutely! My community work isn't something I plan to stop—it has become part of who I am. And my brother will continue supporting the projects too. So together we can keep making a difference.



Thank you so much for this opportunity. I'm excited to keep making a difference for kids in need and truly believe the best is yet to come.

VIP GALA

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER:

OUR FIRST GALA FOR A VERY IMPORTANT PURPOSE

May 10, 2025, marked a historic milestone for our foundation, Very Important Purpose. After years of dreaming about hosting our first gala, that dream finally came true. It was a magical night filled with joy, unity, and purpose—a night that brought together the heart of our 305 community in support of inclusion and love for individuals with special needs.



After several attempts to make this event a reality, it was in January of this year that we finally said: It's time. From that moment, it took five months of hard work, planning, and dedication to bring it all to life. The result was an unforgettable evening—our very first gala.





This event would not have been possible without the incredible support of our community. We are immensely grateful to our extraordinary event producer, Patricia Bohorquez, whose experience and leadership helped us turn every detail into a magical moment. A heartfelt thank you also goes to our amazing host, Paula Zelaya, who guided the entire evening with grace, warmth, and passion.

We were honored to welcome our special guests, including Fabiola Angulo, who shared her powerful experience as a mother of children with special needs.
She reminded us of the importance of supporting not only individuals with disabilities but also the families and caregivers behind them. Another touching moment came from Diana "Didi" Chacón, a powerful voice for those who use wheelchairs. She highlighted the urgent need for inclusive and accessible spaces—especially accessible bathrooms, which are often overlooked.

TH PURPOSE

The evening featured a spectacular performance by one of the hottest bands in Miami: EA, who got everyone up and dancing with contagious energy. The night began with a red-carpet welcome, where the talented students from Lauren Cordo Academy graced us with a beautiful piano mini-concert and captivating vocal performances.

Our red carpet was also a celebration of the youth who have supported our mission. We welcomed influencers, media guests, and celebrities including Jencarlos Canela and Olivia Elliott, who came to honor

our volunteers—especially Oriana Lander, who played a major role in organizing our Pickleball Tournament this past March. We are deeply thankful to our sponsors, whose generosity brought this vision to life, and to all of our vendors who offered exceptional service. Special thanks to PhotoRumba for bringing joy with their fun photo booths and LED dance floor, which lit up the night as we celebrated.

The Columbus High School CCNN team covered the event with amazing professionalism, capturing photos and videos throughout the night. We also received media coverage from VDM Radio, who conducted wonderful interviews and helped share our story.

During the cocktail hour, our guests enjoyed a delightful selection of appetizers, with a special touch from Tablita Mia and Playa Bowls, adding their unique flavors to the evening. Our venue, Big Five Club, provided top-notch service, and we are extremely grateful for their support. One more highlight: Tight Ashes offered a premium cigar experience that many of our gentlemen enjoyed thoroughly.

But above all, this night had a purpose: to raise funds to build a new therapy room and an ADA-accessible bathroom to better serve our beloved friends with special needs. While we didn't reach our full fundraising goal that night, we took the first big step—and the dream is now within reach. We are confident that with the continued support of our community, we will complete this mission soon.

If you'd like to be part of this impactful project, we invite you to reach out and join our cause. Together, we can build a space that brings dignity, comfort, and love to those who need it most.

To all the families who attended, thank you for trusting us—even if you didn't know exactly what to expect. Your presence made all the difference. And to the 20 incredible students we honored that night for their years of dedicated volunteer work—we are so proud of you.

This is just the beginning of a long and beautiful journey. Thank you for being part of the Very Important Purpose family. Let's keep walking this path together.

With love,
The VIP 305 Miami &
Very Important Purpose Team















HONORING OUR YOUNG LEADERS

At our very first VIP Gala, we had the privilege of recognizing 21 exceptional young individuals whose commitment, leadership, and heart have made a lasting impact on our foundation. These students have gone above and beyond—founding clubs, leading events, dedicating countless service hours, and inspiring others through their example. We are deeply grateful for their passion and support, and we celebrate each one of them as a true agent of change in our community.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS:

- **Lazaro Acosta** – Archbishop Coleman Carroll: for founding the VIP Connect club at his school
- **Raquel Arista** – Carrollton: for founding the VIP Connect club at her school
- **Lucas Arista** – Belen: for stepping up as the new club president and supporting our foundation events
- **Katy Farinas** – Our Lady of Lourdes: for participating in our summer camp for more than four years
- **Samantha Gonzalez** – Saint Brendan: for participating in more than three summer camps and supporting our events
- **James Gonzalez** – Belen: for participating in the VIP summer camp for more than four years
- **Ava Guerrero** – Saint Brendan: for participating in more than three years of summer camp
- **Diego Hamud** – Belen: for supporting the VIP club at Belen and collaborating in various events
- **Anthony Kiami** – Belen: for his constant support in monthly events and leadership as vice president of the VIP Connect club at Belen
- **Oriana Lander** – La Salle: for organizing and leading our first Pickleball fundraiser and supporting various events
- **Haley Majors** – Saint Brendan: for actively participating in our summer camp
- **Mia Martinez** – Westminster: for more than two years in our summer camp, and for her impactful community project
- **Madelyn Ojeda** – Miami Arts Studio: for her role as president of the VIP Connect club at Miami Arts Studio
- **Giovany Ojeda** – Miami Arts Studio: for founding the VIP Connect club at his school
- **Manuel Palomino** – Columbus: for participating in more than three years of summer camp and supporting various events
- **Miley Palomino** – Saint Brendan: for participating in more than three years of summer camp and supporting our foundation's events
- **Elizabeth Rossell** – Saint Brendan: for participating in several summer camps and creating her own foundation, which we proudly support
- **Isabella Rossell** – Saint Brendan: for her dedication to the summer camp and her work alongside her sister's foundation
- **Robby Tompkins** – Columbus: for participating in more than two VIP summer camps
- **Michael Varela** – Belen: for participating in more than three years of summer camp and supporting various events
- **Taylor Yanez** – Saint Brendan: for participating in more than three years of summer camp at our foundation
- **Sebastian Lopez Siles** – Christopher Columbus High School: for his role as president of the VIP Connect club at Columbus and as the VIP Connect Club Coordinator












HONORING A LEGACY OF SUPPORT:

Mr. David Pugh Receives the First VIP Legacy Award

At our inaugural VIP Gala, held on May 10th, we celebrated not only the milestones of our foundation Very Important Purpose, but also the people who made those milestones possible. One of the most meaningful moments of the evening was the presentation of our first-ever VIP Legacy Award—an honor bestowed upon a true visionary and supporter: Mr. David Pugh, Principal of Christopher Columbus High School.

Although Mr. Pugh could not attend the gala in person, the award was received on his behalf by Mr. Matthew Deville, moderator of the VIP Connect Club at Columbus. His presence reminded us all of the strong partnership and unwavering support that Columbus has shown since day one.

The VIP Legacy Award recognizes individuals who believed in our mission from the very beginning—those who helped turn our dreams into action. Mr. Pugh is one of those key figures. His support for VIP 305 Magazine and the @vipconnectcolumbus chapter of our club gave us the encouragement and freedom to grow a youth-led movement rooted in service, inclusion, and leadership.



The award was introduced by Sebastian Lopez Siles, founder of the VIP Connect Club at Columbus and the driving force behind its presence at the school. From the stage, Sebastian shared his deep gratitude for Mr. Pugh's support and belief in a student-led idea that today is transforming lives. "Moments like these remind us how one yes can open doors for so many," Sebastian said, speaking to the power of trust and opportunity.

Mr. Pugh's leadership has helped shape what Very Important Purpose and VIP 305 have become today: a growing community dedicated to making a difference, one act of service at a time. This award is our way of saying thank you—for believing in us, for saying yes, and for helping build a legacy of support that will live on through every young person who joins our mission.

Thank you to our Sponsors and our In-Kind Donors

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VIP 305

SEVEN WEEKS OF PURPOSE, FRIENDSHIP, AND IMPACT

VIP 7TH ANNUAL SUMMER CAMP SERVICE PROJECT

From **June 9 to August 9, 2025**, more than **150 student volunteers** from various schools across South Florida joined forces for the **7th edition of our VIP Summer Camp Service Project** — a powerful experience centered on service, inclusion, and community-building.

Over the course of seven incredible weeks, these young changemakers came together with one shared goal: to make a difference while growing in purpose and empathy. Through hands-on activities, workshops, and service missions, they experienced what it means to serve with heart and intention.

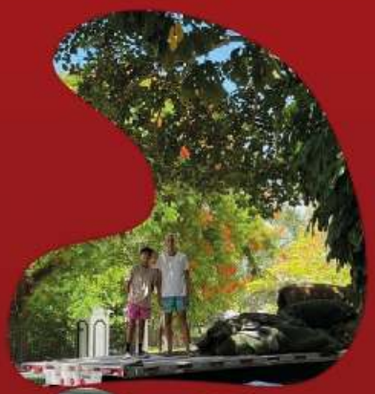
Each week was filled with dynamic programming, thanks to the partnerships with local foundations and organizations that opened their doors to us. From environmental clean-ups and food donations to inclusive activities with individuals with special needs, our campers learned that service can take many forms — and that every action counts.

We were also honored to welcome guest speakers throughout the summer who inspired our youth with stories of resilience, leadership, and giving back. These moments reminded us that education goes beyond the classroom — it's built through human connection and shared values.

What made this summer truly special was the diverse group of students who formed bonds across schools, backgrounds, and experiences. They laughed, they danced, they volunteered — but most importantly, they built a community rooted in kindness.

To all the students, families, schools, partner organizations, and speakers who supported us this summer: thank you for helping us create a space where service is not just something we do — it's who we are.





















AT VIP, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT ONE SUMMER CAN PLANT THE SEEDS FOR A LIFETIME OF PURPOSE.

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Our goal is to empower the next generation with knowledge that will benefit them for life – from managing money wisely to understanding how the stock market works.

Working with VIP 305 has been an incredible experience. The students at camp were curious, motivated, and eager to learn. Through interactive activities and real-life examples, we introduced them to financial concepts that sparked their interest and encouraged them to think about their future goals. The team at VIP 305 made the process seamless, creating an environment where students felt comfortable to ask questions and grow.

How to Contact Us
If you're a parent or student interested in learning more about InterStock, you can reach us at:

info@interstockusa.com
www.interstockusa.com
Instagram: @interstockusa

We offer after-school programs, private classes, and camps to help students gain a strong foundation in finance and investing



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COACH DE ADOLESCENTES

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Lidben Sanchez es una coach certificada por la International Coach Federation (ICF) y la fundadora de Seres Felices.

Su objetivo es guiar e inspirar a los jóvenes para que se conozcan mejor emocionalmente. También ayuda a los adolescentes a construir su futuro profesional alineando sus inquietudes académicas y extracurriculares con sus preferencias.

Además, orienta a los padres en la etapa de la adolescencia para transitarla de una manera más compasiva y los guía en el proceso de selección escolar para el desarrollo integral de sus hijos.

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SPREADING PAWSITIVITY: A JOURNEY OF LOVE, GROWTH, AND GIVING BACKPET

By Silvia Mesa, Founder of Charlie's Wags of Wisdom, LLC

In 2017, I had the pleasure of meeting Yessika Siles and her amazing team at VIP305 Miami. What started as a simple introduction blossomed into a beautiful partnership dedicated to making a difference in the lives of children, teens, and our community. Over the years, we've shared countless meaningful moments together through various events, each one leaving a lasting paw print on our hearts.

My journey began as a volunteer, alongside my beloved therapy dogsPrada, Lalique, and Charlie Brownfondly known as Prada's Bunch. Together, we brought comfort, joy, and furry love to those who needed it most. One of the highlights of this time was participating in a special 2019 calendar for the month of August, in collaboration with the Victory4Kids Foundation, honoring Cancer Survivors with heartfelt dedication.

In July 2019, our journey with VIP305 took a new and exciting turn as we joined their summer camp program. Each week either Prada, Lalique, or Charlie Brown visited to bring smiles, emotional support, and moments of relaxation to the teens. It was a time to bond, to breathe, and to simply be.

When I founded Charlie's Wags of Wisdom in 2023, our visits evolved into something even deeper. Beyond the tail wags and furry cuddles, we introduced workshops designed to empower the teens, providing them with valuable life skills and mindset tools to help them navigate life's ups and downs. Our mission became not only to bring joy but to spark transformationto help each teen realize how incredible they are, how they can give back to their community, and how empathy and kindness can guide them in everything they do.

Today, alongside my faithful therapy dog Charlie Brown, I have the honor of serving as a Life Coach for Teens. Together, we inspire these young hearts to open their minds to new possibilities, to believe in themselves, and to take steps towards becoming the best version of who they are meant to be. Our workshops help create those magical light bulb moments'when a child o teen suddenly realizes that they have the inner strength to overcome any obstacle life places in their path.

We are deeply grateful to Yessika, Amy, and Sebastian for the opportunity to continue being part of these impactful summer camps. These camps offer more than just funthey are a chance to build meaningful friendships, to learn about giving back, and to discover one's trueself.

As aLife Coach for Kids and Teens, my greatest joy is helping young people find their spark and shine brightly. f y like to learn more about our programs or how we can help the children and teens in your lfe, please feel free to re out.

Together, let's keep spreading pawsitivity and purposeone child, one heart, and one wag at a time.

CHARLIE'S WAGS OF WISDOM



Email: charlieswagsofwisdom@gmail.com | Instagram: @charlies_wags_wisdom



CINTHIA LÓPEZ

MATH TEACHER
MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER
LIFE COACH AND WRITER

I am a **Certified Math Teacher** for Dade County schools, with 20 years of experience, I am also a **Certified Life Coach and Motivational Speaker** and a **writer**. I published my first book on May of this year. I am in the process of translating it into English. The title in Spanish is Atrevete in English the title is Dare. This year I had the opportunity Of being a Motivational Guess Speaker at VIP's 7th Annual Summer Camp where for consecutive weeks I shared different activities, the participants understood the concept of INNER POWER, which is a power that we have and we use it to achieve our goals once we discover it. Self esteem, persistency, courage, knowledge of what you want to achieve, are some of the elements of the INNER POWER that will allow us to accoplish our GOALS!

REVIEW FROM A VIP CAMPER







I'm Anthony Guzman, a senior at Christopher Columbus High School. I volunteered at the VIP Summer Camp for the first time this year. I signed up for the first week of the camp so I had no idea what to expect. Honestly I don't know why I hadn't volunteered in past years because it was a great learning experience while having lots of fun! It felt like a big sleep over with friends while we worked hard together and met great people. Yessika and Amy are so nice and they made the experience a great one. I enjoyed everyday and all of the places we went to. My favorite location that we went to is the WOW Center. It wasn't my first time volunteering there but it's always nice to go and spend time and have fun with the special needs people. I also enjoyed the South Florida SPCA and learning about the horses and getting to work with/for them. I am very grateful for my time at Escondite with VIP and it was a great way to earn my volunteer hours, hang out with old friends, make new friends and help my community.

FUNDACIÓN MANOS MISIONERAS

Un Apoyo Muy Especial Este Verano!

FABIOLA ANGULO







Durante nuestro campamento de verano tuvimos muchas organizaciones que nos visitaron y muchas personas amigas que nos apoyan, pero quiero darle un cariño muy especial a Fabiola Angulo. No solo por su importante respaldo en nuestra gala, sino también por toda su constante participación los viernes, apoyándonos con entusiasmo en cada actividad del campamento.

Fabiola Angulo a través de su fundación Manos Misioneras colabora con comunidades vulnerables, tanto en Estados Unidos como en Latinoamérica. Ha sido distinguida por la Casa Blanca con el President's Volunteer Service Award, por sus años de voluntariado y por su permanente compromiso de servir a los demás.

Muchas gracias, Fabiola, por tu apoyo constante y por ser una mujer que da tanto a la comunidad. Tu entrega inspira.

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SILVER KNIGHT by Giovana Walder

Very Important Purpose (VIP) encourages high school seniors to apply for the prestigious Miami Herald Silver Knight Award, one of the nation's most respected student honors. This award recognizes students who not only excel academically but also use their knowledge and talents to serve their schools and communities. With several weeks remaining before the deadline, VIP is here to help students craft strong applications by guiding them in building service projects, taking on leadership roles, and making a lasting, positive impact.

The Award

This award is highly selective and nationally recognized, with a total of 30 winners and an estimated 90 honorable mentions. Each Silver Knight Award recipient receives a $2,000 scholarship, an American Airlines medallion, and a Silver Knight statue. Honorable mentions receive a $500 scholarship and an engraved plaque. Don't miss this opportunity to be recognized for your hard work and dedication! The Silver Knight Award not only provides financial support but also offers valuable recognition for your academic achievements and service to the community. Applying can open doors to new opportunities and help you stand out in college applications and future endeavors.

Qualifications

This program is open for 12th-grade students from public, private, and parochial schools in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties. While class rank and/or percentile are no longer mandatory, eligible students must maintain a minimum unweighted GPA of 3.2. This requirement, combined with a strong record of service to both their school and community, makes a student eligible for nomination. Service and activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Managing recreational programs
- Coaching or assisting in athletic activities
- Demonstrating leadership through service, clubs, and honor societies
- Leading major service projects that are sustainable and benefit the community

Schools may nominate one student in each of the following 15 categories: Art, Athletics, Business, Drama, English & Literature, General Scholarship, Journalism, Mathematics, Music and Dance, New Media, Science, Social Science, Speech, Vocational-Technical, and World Languages. Service does not need to be directly related to the nominee's category; however, some achievements, both inside and outside of the classroom, must be related to the category.

How to Apply:

1. Students must be in 12th grade and meet all other award qualifications.
2. A student wishing to become a Silver Knight nominee must apply through the school's Silver Knight Coordinator appointed by the principal. Your school's Silver Knight Coordinator is your main point of contact and will guide you through the application process.
3. The application is completed online. Nominees will be given a username by their Silver Knight Coordinator and begin to fill out their applications.
4. Fill out all sections of the official application with details as instructed. All fields must be completed with no blanks. Enter N/A if not applicable.
5. Include supporting documents that prove your service. Use these documents to explain the significance of school awards. Document major awards and achievements outside of school in your application.
6. A nominee must submit five packets of the Entry Form: a final printout of the application that has been submitted online plus four photocopies.
7. Practice interviews may be held by your school. However, judges' interviews are held in April.
8. Nominees from all schools appear on a designated day to be interviewed by a panel of independent judges.



Previous Nominations from VIP Connect Club Presidents



As students prepare for their final year of high school, it's important to craft a résumé or college application that stands out. VIP recognizes this need and is here to guide eligible students through this tedious but rewarding process.

SAT PREP

By Giovana Walder

At VIP305, we understand how important the SAT can be for many students. While it's a significant exam that high school juniors and seniors must prepare for, the process doesn't have to be stressful. With a balanced approach of independent study and personalized tutoring, VIP305 is here to help make the SAT a powerful tool for scholarships, college applications, and beyond.

An Overview of the SAT →

The SAT is a standardized exam commonly used in college admissions. While some colleges no longer require SAT scores, students with strong results are still encouraged to include them to stand out and demonstrate their academic aptitude. The SAT provides a standardized way for colleges to compare applicants from different schools and backgrounds, since other application factors, such as GPA, can vary depending on the classes offered at a student's high school or the teachers available to them. The SAT is now administered digitally and is divided into two main sections: Reading and Writing, and Math. The Reading and Writing section includes short passages followed by multiple-choice questions. Some questions focus on reading comprehension, while others assess a student's writing and language skills. The Math section, on the other hand, covers a range of topics including algebra, problem-solving, data analysis, and advanced math. Students have access to the built-in Desmos calculator throughout the entire section. The digital SAT takes approximately 2 hours and 14 minutes to complete and is offered multiple times throughout the year.

Preparing for the SAT →

There are a variety of ways to approach SAT prep, but VIP recommends starting to study at least a month in advance. Khan Academy, a non-profit educational organization, offers a strong platform for independent SAT study with free online learning resources. Khan Academy offers a variety of instructional videos and practice questions that can benefit students. While this is a useful platform for many students, it offers limited interactivity. VIP305 recommends using Khan Academy for independent study alongside Schoolhouse.world, a free online tutoring platform closely affiliated with Khan Academy. Schoolhouse.world offers multiple SAT bootcamps to help students prepare for both the Reading/Writing and Math sections. It connects learners with volunteer tutors for live, small-group sessions, providing a more personalized study experience. Additionally, former students who have used Schoolhouse.world can apply to become tutors themselves. This offers several benefits, including a valuable experience to highlight on college applications and the opportunity to earn community service hours.

***

VIP305 is proud to support a talented community of volunteers and dedicated students. Since the SAT is a significant, nationally recognized exam, it's important to start preparing early and commit the time and effort needed to achieve the highest possible score. However, with dedicated preparation and consistent practice, VIP is confident that any student can proudly reflect on their well-earned score.



2025 SAT Test Dates

SAT Dates and Deadlines

Fall 2025

SAT Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
August 23	August 8	August 12
September 13	August 29	September 2
October 4	September 19	September 23
November 8	October 24	October 28
December 6	November 21	November 25

SAT

High school is about more than just grades: extracurricular activities and scholarships are excellent ways to explore your passions and consider different career options.This section is dedicated to helping you discover opportunities to advance your academic and career journey. VIP-305 can assist you in finding internships, community service opportunities, and scholarships. Our goal is to ensure you never miss an opportunity by providing up-to-date information on different programs, including names, descriptions, and deadlines. Below is a list of local extracurricular activities and scholarships that can help strengthen your college applications.

VIP 305 Scholarship ✦Opportunities

By Giovana Walder

Upcoming Scholarship Opportunities

Coca-Cola Scholars Program Scholarship

Award Amount: $20,000

Description:
The Coca-Cola Scholars Program is a merit-based award that can be won during a student's final year of high school. Students are recognized for the impact they've had on their schools and communities, demonstrated by leadership and ambition. Each year, 150 Coca-Cola scholars are selected to receive this $20,000 scholarship.

Eligibility:
- Must be a current high school senior in the U.S.
- Must be planning to pursue a degree at an accredited U.S. post-secondary institution
- Must have a minimum 3.0 GPA (on a 4.0 scale)

Deadlines:
Available from August 1st (of the student's senior year) to October 2nd.

Kemper Human Rights Education Foundation Essay Contest

Award Amount: $5,000

Description:
The Kemper Human Rights Foundation offers this scholarship to high school students who submit the best essay in response to the provided prompts. There are two contests: one for high school students in the U.S. and one for students who reside in other countries. This is a remarkable opportunity for students to advocate for human rights issues and compete for cash prizes.

Eligibility:
- Open to both U.S. students and international high school students
- Essay must address the prompt and be supported by research
- Essay must be written in English with a maximum of 2,500 words (excluding the bibliography or any footnotes)
- Essay must include a signed cover page with specified details

Deadlines:
December 10th, 2025

Equitable Excellence Scholarship

Award Amount: $20,000 ($5,000 renewable scholarship for four years of undergraduate study)

Description:
Recipients of this scholarship will be selected based on ambition, community impact, and financial need. Applicants must submit a custom essay and demonstrate community service and work experience in other parts of their application.

Eligibility:
- Must be current high school seniors and current undergraduates in one of the 50 U.S. states, District of Columbia or Puerto Rico
- Must plan to enroll full-time in an accredited two- or four-year college or university in the United States for the entire upcoming academic year
- Must be willing to provide a release to publicize their identities and information about their achievements along with photographs for use in program promotion and information
- Have a 2.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale

Deadlines:
Available in October 2025, closing date TBA

Scholarship Websites

Unigo.com

Description:

Resource for students wanting information about scholarships, colleges, internships, and careers.

Features:

- Scholarship search
- College reviews
- Articles and advice
- Internships and jobs

Niche.com

Description:

Provides rankings and reviews on schools, colleges, neighborhoods, and companies, along with scholarship opportunities.

Features:

- School and college search
- Scholarship listings
- Reviews and ratings
- Custom lists

Raise.me

Description:

Students can earn micro-scholarships from universities in exchange for their high school accomplishments and involvement.

Features:

- Micro-scholarships (small amounts of money for each achievement)
- College partnerships
- Profile building

VIP-305 is proud to have a community of hardworking, ambitious students. For assistance in applying for scholarships, writing essays, or securing letters of recommendation, VIP is happy to help!

VIP PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT:

A SMASH HIT FOR A GREAT CAUSE!

On March 23rd, the courts at The Yards by Amelia came alive with energy, community spirit, and friendly competition during our first-ever VIP Pickleball Tournament, organized by Very Important Purpose (VIP). This unforgettable day brought together families, athletes, volunteers, and supporters—all united by one mission: raising funds to build a much-needed therapy room for individuals with special needs.

The tournament featured four exciting categories—Advanced, Intermediate, Beginner, and Novice—with participants of all ages showcasing their skills and sportsmanship. Here are the champions of the day:









This fun-filled tournament wasn't just about medals—it was also an opportunity to build community, give back, and include individuals with special needs in the action. Players not only competed, but also spent time engaging with our VIP guests, making it a day full of connection and meaning.

A Special Thanks To...

We are immensely grateful to the people who helped make this day a reality, especially our incredible event co-organizer Jencarlos Canela, and the one and only Amarette Suarez, who was behind every detail, from start to finish. Special thanks to Oriana Lander for her professionalism and support.

Last but not least, thank you to every player, volunteer, and family member who came out to support and participate. This event was a perfect example of how sport can build bridges, raise awareness, and create lasting change.

Stay tuned for our next tournament—we can't wait to see you back on the court!

Our heartfelt gratitude also goes to our sponsors, whose generosity brought this event to life:

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(thank you for hosting us!)
@didiercarod
(for guiding and mentoring us!)

Beyond labels by VIP

By Sebastián López Siles

In the world of fashion, few projects are born with a purpose as powerful as Beyond Labels. This new initiative is here to revolutionize the clothing market with something greater than just style: messages of inclusion and inspiration, designed and created by individuals with special needs, for everyone.

Beyond Labels is much more than a collection. It is a real opportunity for work and self-expression for adults with special needs, who through their creativity show us —and show the world— that when they are supported and believe in themselves, there are no limits to what they can achieve.

This project celebrates diversity, breaks stigmas, and creates a space where every piece tells a story of effort, talent, and hope. We want to invite you to be part of this movement, to join an initiative that doesn't just dress people, but inspires them.

We are excited to share with you this project that was born from the heart and seeks to transform lives, one label at a time.













With gratitude and enthusiasm,
Sebastián López Siles
Beyond Labels
by VIP





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TABLITA MÍA:

EL ARTE DE COMPARTIR CON ELEGANCIA



Hay mesas que se disfrutan, y hay mesas que se recuerdan. En Tablita Mía, cada creación nace con la intención de convertir un instante en memoria, un encuentro en celebración, un detalle en arte.



Nuestras charcuterías y grazing tables son más que gastronomía: Colores, texturas y aromas se entrelazan en armonía, invitando a vivir la experiencia de la alta mesa en un ambiente cercano, cálido y sofisticado.

La elegancia de Cada tabla es elaborada con ingredientes seleccionados y presentados con precisión. Porque entendemos que detrás de cada celebración hay una historia única, y que merece ser contada con el lenguaje universal de los sabores.



Nuestro servicio viaja por todo el sur de la Florida, llevando consigo el refinamiento de lo artesanal y la distinción de lo exclusivo. Transformamos lo cotidiano en inolvidable, elevando cada ocasión con un sello gourmet inconfundible.



TABLITA MÍA:

no solo es una mesa... es la experiencia de un arte que se comparte.





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La Voz de la Calma

que Inspira al Mundo

YUDY ARIAS



Maestra, mentora y empresaria que reinventa el bienestar.

Yudy es multifacetica empresaria,Yogui, Coach y tambien conductora de TV, donde inspira a millones de hispanohablantes a través del bienestar integral. Su liderazgo y carisma la han posicionado como una influyente visionaria digital.



Con una visión innovadora y una autenticidad inconfundible, Yudy Arias ha cimentado un legado que trasciende fronteras. Tras brillar en la televisión colombiana, se mudó a Miami, donde se convirtió en una maestra de yoga que fusiona prácticas ancestrales con neurociencia moderna. Sus retiros espirituales internacionales han atraído a participantes de los cinco continentes, con listas de espera de hasta seis meses.

Sigue a Yudy Arias y descubre su método único para el desarrollo personal y profesional:

@yudyarias

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Matthew 28:19–20

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

MAC



Hi, my name is Mac. I'm a 14-year-old high school student. I love playing video games and going to concerts but more than anything, I love Jesus Christ.

Since I was little, I was taught that happiness is a choice. But over time, I've learned that true happiness comes only from God's love. The best way I know to share that love is by speaking about Christ and spreading His message.

That's what inspired me to create my social media account, @BetterwithChrist2010, which eventually connected me with Yessika, who invited me to speak at her camp, Vip305Miami. It was my very first opportunity to truly share my faith in front of peers who shared the same passion for Christ's love. The experience was humbling, uplifting, and deeply rewarding.



One thing I've come to realize is this: you don't need to be a certain age to seek God in difficult times. Every age, every stage of life, is the perfect time to grow closer to Christ.

Thanks to the love and support of my parents, sister, family, and friends, I feel driven to pursue my calling to help bring people closer to Christ.



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NO LIMITS COFFEE SHOP:

BREWING OPPORTUNITY IN MIAMI

I've visited No Limits Coffee Shop several times, and every time I walk in I feel uplifted. This isn't just another café—it's a place of purpose, inclusion, and hope. As always, our organization is proud to support what they are doing, and we wish them nothing but success in this beautiful mission.

WHAT IS NO LIMITS COFFEE SHOP?

No Limits Coffee Shop, located in Miami, is an all-inclusive, disability-friendly café with a powerful purpose. Their mission is to provide employment opportunities, job training, and a true sense of belonging for adults with special needs.

The café was founded with the vision of creating opportunities that often disappear once individuals with special needs finish school. It's more than a business—it's a bridge to independence, dignity, and community participation.



WHAT MAKES IT SPECIAL

Every visit shows just how unique this place is:

- Inclusive environment: Employees with special needs are at the heart of the café. They greet guests, prepare and serve meals, and take pride in their responsibilities.
- Delicious menu: From fresh coffee to sandwiches, salads, wraps, and breakfast options, the food and drinks are carefully made and full of flavor.
- Social impact: Families share how working at the café has boosted their loved ones' self-esteem, independence, and pride in earning their own wages. Customers also leave inspired, witnessing firsthand the abilities and talents of the staff.

WHY IT MATTERS

No Limits Coffee Shop is a model of what true inclusion looks like. It fills a critical gap for adults with special needs who are often left without meaningful opportunities after school ends. It also helps shift community perceptions—showing that given the chance, every person can contribute, grow, and thrive.

The impact goes beyond employment. It's about confidence, dignity, and belonging. It's about families who feel hope, and customers who leave with a new perspective on inclusion.

Address: 13920 SW 47th Street, Suite 103, Miami, FL 33175
Phone: (786) 907-4971





Our Support and Wishes

From my own visits, I've seen the joy, the effort, and the pride that shine in this café. Every smile and every cup served tells a story of possibility and purpose.

Our organization is deeply happy to support No Limits Coffee Shop. We believe in their mission, and we stand with them as they continue to grow, inspire, and empower lives.

We wish them all the success in the world—may they keep brewing opportunity and building a stronger, more inclusive Miami.

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Happy 15th Birthday Emily Remy & the June 21, 2025 Quinceañera Group!

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ICON OF THE SEAS - JULY 11TH
7 NIGHT EASTERN (Miami)
ST MAARTEN / ST THOMAS / COCOCAY

ALLURE OF THE SEAS - JULY 25TH
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