

celebrating

HISPANIC HERITAGE

SEPTEMBER 15 – OCTOBER 15



Realize your dream of earning a college education

The Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) of Outstate Michigan Scholars program awards

10 deserving high school seniors with a scholarship of \$2,000/year for four years to a college of their choice. Students are selected based on academic achievement, community involvement and financial need. RMHC of Outstate Michigan's scholarship requirements and applications can be found at: rmhcoutstatemi.org. Click on "What We Do." For more information about RMHC of Outstate Michigan visit: [facebook.com/RMHCOutstateMI](https://www.facebook.com/RMHCOutstateMI).

USE the NEWS

Look in the Sports section of the newspaper. Are any of the athletes mentioned Hispanic? What are their home countries? Research other sports that are popular in those countries.

This article is in English and Spanish. Test your translations skills!

Scholarship recipient grateful for family's support

For a girl who began her elementary education in an English as a Second Language (ESL) class, Melissa Chavez has come a long way. Now 17, she is the recipient of an \$8,000 Ronald McDonald House Charities of Outstate Michigan scholarship.

"This scholarship means a lot to me," said Chavez. "I'm able to go to Michigan State University and pursue the goal of being a pediatrician. It's a big honor to pursue that career and not have finances be a big obstacle for me."

To qualify for the scholarship, the East

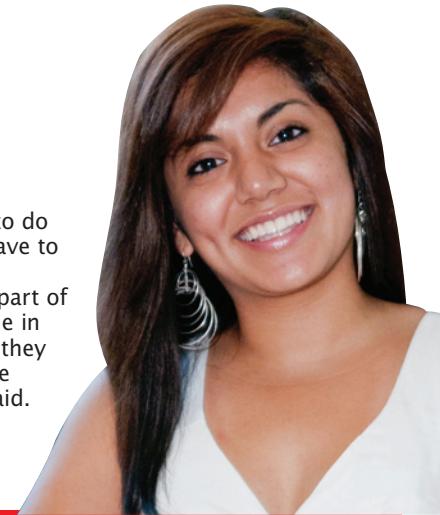
Kentwood graduate, who is a first-generation American citizen, needed to be in financial need, excel academically and be involved in her community. Her 4.19 grade point average and involvement in charity work through her church and the National Honor Society sealed the deal.

She attributes her success to opportunities provided, influential teachers and church leaders and the support of family. "My mom is my role model. She would tell me stories of how much she struggled when she first came here. Along

the way she's always been motivating me to do my best and do well in school so I won't have to struggle as much as she did."

The unity of family that Chavez sees as part of her Hispanic culture has played a major role in her desire to succeed. "Despite everything they go through, they always just try to be there for me, motivate me, challenge me," she said. "Making them proud, I think that would be what I am most proud of."

~ By Deborah J. Cook



Melissa Chavez

Ganadora de beca agradecida por el apoyo de su familia

Para una jovencita quién inició su educación primaria en una clase de Inglés Como Segundo Idioma (ESL), Melissa Chávez ha logrado mucho. Hoy, ella tiene 17 años y ha recibido una beca de 8,000 dólares por parte de Ronald McDonald House Charities of Outstate Michigan para asistir a la universidad.

"Esta beca significa mucho para mí" dijo Chávez. "Puedo ir a Michigan State University y alcanzar la meta de llegar a ser una peditra. Es un gran honor el seguir esa

carrera y saber que las finanzas no serán un obstáculo para mí."

Para calificar para la beca, la graduada de la escuela East Kentwood quien también pertenece a la primera generación de ciudadanos americanos en su familia, debía tener necesidad financiera, sobresalir académicamente y estar involucrada en su comunidad. Su promedio de 4.19 y desempeño en obras de caridad de su iglesia y la Sociedad Honoraria Nacional, cerraron el trato.

Ella atribuye su éxito a las distintas oportunidades que ha tenido, la influencia de sus profesores, los líderes de su iglesia y el apoyo de su familia. "Mi mamá es mi modelo a seguir. Ella me contaba historias de cuanto lucharon cuando recién llegaron acá. Durante todo el camino ella me ha motivado a hacer siempre lo mejor académicamente para que yo no tuviera las dificultades que ella tuvo."

Chávez cree que la unidad de su familia, como parte de la tradición hispana, ha

jugado un papel muy importante en sus deseos de mejorar. "A pesar de todas las circunstancias que ellos atravesaron, siempre trataron de estar ahí, de motivarme y retarme" dijo ella. "Yo creo que de lo que más estoy orgullosa es de que ellos estén orgullosos de mí."

~ Por Deborah J. Cook

Translated by the Hispanic Center of Western Michigan

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Vanessa Alvarado

Lansing McDonald's Crew Member



"I'm proud to be Hispanic in America because my ancestors had to fight for our place in this country. Now we make up a large percent of the population, so I feel like Hispanics are really making a difference."

Edalea Cantu

Lansing McDonald's Crew Member and Trainer



"My Hispanic heritage is important to me because it helps me form an instant connection with other Hispanics. It is part of my identity so when I share that quality with someone we become closer. Plus the food is amazing!"

