

## InnerCity Struggle Member Testimonies

Over the past 23 years, InnerCity Struggle has secured new schools for the Eastside, won millions of dollars in new school funding, increased graduation rates, college access and support services for students, and significantly reduced school suspensions and improved the learning environment for our children and youth. These wins will affect the lives of thousands of community members for years to come.

### We are happy to share highlights from the voices of youth and family members of InnerCity Struggle



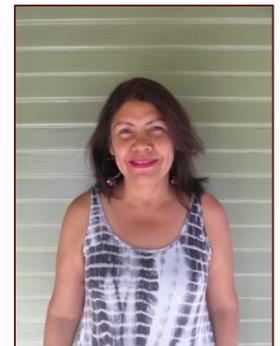
“InnerCity Struggle (ICS) offered me so much support and guidance throughout my 4 years of high school. The academic services they provided were very helpful for my college application process, scholarship search, and so much more. If not for ICS Academic Services (AS) I would not have been able to accomplish as much as I did during my senior year. It is important for donors to continue to invest in the work happening at ICS because not only does ICS empower and educate our youth on social justice issues but they also provide much needed mentorship and academic advising.”

– **Ariana Rios**

*Ms. Ariana Rios is a recent graduate of Garfield High School in East Los Angeles. She has been involved with ICS since her freshman year. Ariana will be attending Middlebury College in the Fall Semester.*

“Since I began with Familias Unidas several years ago, my life has been totally changed. I lost a lot of my shyness and realized the deep needs of our Eastside schools. Familias Unidas has helped me grow by providing me with leadership development and preparing me to be a community advocate. As a result, I have been recognized as a parent leader on several occasions, twice as a *Champion Mother* for supporting my daughters’ school. Today I am still committed to the fight to improve public education and to increase resources for our schools. I would have never imagined being able to work with other parents and community in this way, including being so outspoken. Thank you to my excellent coordinators and InnerCity Struggle who have helped me make change in my own family and community.”

– **Ana Alvarenga**



*Ms. Alvarenga has been a member of Familias Unidas (FaU) for 13 years and engages other parents to become part of the Familias Unidas program at InnerCity Struggle.*



“Before joining InnerCity Struggle (ICS) I had mostly been shy and never really spoke up, now I am so amazed at how much I have grown because of their help. I have spoken at LAUSD School Board Meetings, did interviews with the news media, and even had an article written about my leadership which was featured in the front page of the L.A. Times! My proudest moment was leading the Student Walk Outs at my school because it showed me how much stronger I have become as a community youth leader. My leadership growth was made possible because of the mentorship and support provided by ICS.” – **Daniel Garcia**

*Mr. Daniel Garcia has been involved with InnerCity Struggle since his freshman year in High School. Daniel will continue to organize fellow youth and residents, and serve as a youth representative at Eastside L.E.A.D.S (Eastside Development Collaborative).*