

Scott,

As we are preparing for the Food Pantry drive at the November 17 meeting, I had asked if there were any specific students I could nominate for the "Go and Do Likewise" gifts. Please see the note below and please let me know if you need more information on this. I believe this student will be joining me as will Stephanie Alvarez and our South Campus Provost Dr. Brenda Jones on November 17.

Thank you for your consideration of this student for the "Go and Do Likewise" gift.

Thank you,

Teri

**Teri Crawford**

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**From:** <Alvarez>, Stephanie <[Stephanie.Alvarez@sjcd.edu](mailto:Stephanie.Alvarez@sjcd.edu)>

**Date:** Friday, October 10, 2014 1:04 PM **To:** Teri Crawford

<[Teri.Crawford@sjcd.edu](mailto:Teri.Crawford@sjcd.edu)> **Subject:** Rotary Nomination

Ms. Crawford,

I was just able to speak to the student that will be accompanying me to the Rotary Club in November. I was able to speak to her for a while regarding her situation.

Her name is Melissa Rojas and she's married with two children, a daughter 6 and a son 8 years of age. Her family is originally from Florida and moved here during the recession for work.

Melissa had been studying to become a dental hygienist, but during that time she had children and her family moved here. By the time she was able to return to school a lot of her science classes had expired and she is now starting from scratch. She began at San Jacinto College in the Spring of 2014 to complete her general studies to transfer to a local university and become a Physician's Assistant.

Since her family has been here they have been through some rough times. Her husband lost his job and is now working anyway he can. He takes a lot of various side jobs to keep money coming in. Many times longer jobs are away from the family, for weeks and months at a time. The Rojas family is now deciding if he should take a job that may come available in Arizona.

They love the Houston area and Melissa is active in her community. She volunteers at her children's school and her church. She keeps her eyes open for free events in the community to take her children to on the weekends. She tries to keep them busy.

Her children are at the age where she's trying to teach them the importance of saving. They have piggy banks and save what they can.

When it comes to the holidays her family is in Florida. For Thanksgiving they stay at home. Melissa has mentioned that her and her neighbors are able to find buy one get one turkeys and each pay half so they can have turkey for the holiday. Christmas is the hard holiday for her and her family. She wants to make Christmas special and knows as her children get older, their Christmas lists get more expensive. She's already looking out for deals on scooters to get for her children.

Melissa is currently looking for work as a receptionist, or something similar. She has worked in executive and construction offices, as well as a dental assistant.

She is very grateful for the San Jac Food Pantry and often refers to it as a blessing. She even talks about contributing to it when she's able to.

In the conversations I've had with Melissa, she is very bright, cheerful, and optimistic. We can sit and talk for a long time.

If you need any more information please let me know. She only knows that I wanted to get some background before the meeting and that's it.

Thank you, Steph

**Stephanie Alvarez**

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