

Metta Students Foundation awards \$1,000 to Providence Student



Press Release - 5/28/15- Admirable and ambitious are just two reasons Matthew Vargas of Providence is the winner of the 25th Metta Students award. "I chose to nominate him for a Metta grant simply because he deserves to be celebrated. Other students need to hear this story. My hope is that Matthew's journey can inspire others to consider how they can learn from other communities and how they can impact those communities in positive ways," states Met School 12th grade advisor, Joe Clapprod.

Matthew's journey took him to Guatemala in February of 2015 where he spent a month working with the organization, Hope of Life in Zacapa Llano Verde. There, Vargas found himself among the poorest of the poor and the eighteen year old took the opportunity to make a difference. Vargas helped feed families, built wheels for fresh water, played with the kids around the villages, and took care of the kids at the Kelly House, a special needs home.



"It is important to give back and help others because that is the way to end poverty working together," states Vargas. "Also, because my father always told me the best feeling in this world is helping others that can never repay you. The reason I chose this project is because I wanted to go to my parents' home country and help make a difference, even if it was only a little, I wanted to help.

A ceremony will be held Thursday, May 28, 2015 at 9 am at The Met School at 325 Public St. in Providence. Members of the media are welcome. With this latest winner, the Metta Students Foundation has awarded twenty-five thousand dollars to students who have done acts of kindness and continue to share metta. Norm Kelly, founder of Software Quality Associates in Providence, created the Metta Students Foundation in October of 2012, after learning of one teen's kind act of kindness towards another teen.

"Metta means love and kindness," states Norm Kelly, "and we are proud to be able to give recognition to all of those bright lights who give back, not because they have to, but because they are truly good hearted and want to make a positive difference."

"Winning Metta is amazing because I know it would show my family that I am a man of my word and that when I say something I mean it and I'll do it. It would just help show the type of man I truly am, helpful and hard working," states Vargas.

It is for all of these reasons the Metta Students is proud to award Matthew one thousand dollars. To see video of how the Metta Students foundation began or for more information about the foundation log onto www.mettastudents.org.