

My name is Linda Godinez. I am currently a part of the San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps and I have been involved with this program since November 1, 2011. I have worked a lot of different events in less than a year. I've done job fairs, concerts, carnivals, planting trees, community services, baseball games and last but not least I've done a Christmas Toy Drive during the holiday season for the families that are less fortunate.

October 1st, 2011 I was released from jail and had nothing going for myself. I was contemplating whether or not to go back to my old habits. To give you an idea of what I was into, would be in and out of jail since the age of 12, using drugs, gang banging, selling drugs and committing crimes. I only made it to the 7th grade and never went back. Being here at the corps I completed all my credits and graduated on stage. The corps has helped me change my life all the way around. Since being here at the corps, I have graduated high school, I have a stable living, I bought my first car, I got my license, I report to my P. O. on a monthly basis and I have been given a huge opportunity to move up in life. I feel more confident and most of all responsible. My goals are to graduate college and to continue to better my life.

I would ask to please continue funding the Conservation Corps, so that the next person coming out of jail can be given the same opportunity that I was. This program really works if you want it to. There are many people that need this helping hand, and that are really motivated to make a change but have no resources. This program is important to me because there is still room for growth within myself and with the guidance of the Conservation Corps I can achieve all my goals and continue on my own. I would ask once again, please do not stop the funding. Thanks for taking the time to hear me out.

With Respect,

Linda Godinez

7/30/12