



May 2020

During these uncertain times we can all use some Shining Stars in our lives. AchieveKids has many of these and is proud to present our inaugural edition of

AchieveKids Shining Stars

These are people that have shown compassion and empathy for others during this health crisis and sheltering in place. Individuals that are rising above the fold, advocating for our families, and showing extreme passion for the work that we do and always wanting to do more. Taking the initiative to reach out and connect and helping to ease the feeling of isolation is critical right now.

Our first 2 Shining Stars are:

Priscilla Barrios, a Program Counselor at our Palo Alto Campus

Priscilla has been involved in advocating for a student's family in her class by providing parent training, food services, and other resources.

She is making in-home visits on a weekly basis so the family can use her computer to have speech therapy for the child, thus not only meeting the needs of the student but also the family as a whole. She donated an iPad to provide the parents with training videos to improve communication in the home. This is huge, and definitely speaks to putting the need of others before herself.

She saw how the family was interacting with the current distance learning plan, then developed a solution and implemented that solution. By doing this she made remote learning more accessible and improved the family's quality of life and overall communication.

Priscilla's level of engagement has been exemplary. She is all about advocating for and meeting the needs of our families.



Jennifer Collazo, a Teacher at our San Jose Campus





Jen is always the first in line to volunteer, first in line to ask if, how and when we can get kids back on campus. She has been quick and direct about family needs, doing food deliveries to homes and taking care of family needs proactively without asking or waiting, or telling us.

She has most definitely embraced the values we stated on day one of our shelter in place, understanding the stress and difficulty this places on our families, and her willingness to step in and help in any way she can. Jen is always working and willing to improve and support in any way she can and always has her student's best interest at heart.

"If we can't be together at school, at least we can help our students get the food support they need to continue their learning at home," said Jen.

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