



## Who Are We?

The Role Model Program is one of Santa Clara County's most successful classroom based mentoring programs reaching over 5000 students annually. Founded locally in 1989, The Role Model Program has formed a vast network of support from educators, business leaders, community advocates, students and parents. The Role Model Program has established itself as a **local leader in providing positive role modeling** to the county's most under-resourced youth.



*"Kids are so excited to find out that I am Mexican American and an attorney, but I do not want to be the exception. I do not think that being an attorney should be that special. **It should be a given that Mexican Americans can excel.**"*

*Elias Portales, Role Model Volunteer*

## The Need

Role Model Program students are in 4th through 8th grade and attend public school in Santa Clara County. They are underserved due to conditions of poverty, **lack of access to services and information, limited adult role models and limited educational expectations**. As a result, these students perform lower academically than their peers, rank lower on standardized tests and attend college at lower rates.

## Our Mission

The mission of The Role Model Program is to operate as an integral partner with the educational sector to **empower underserved elementary and middle school students** to achieve academic excellence and positive life choices.

## Our Impact

The Role Model Program **reaches over 5000 students each year with the help of over 150 volunteers**, people who took time out of their day to make a positive change in our community. The Role Model Program helps youth better understand how they can impact the world around them as individuals, students and workers.

## Our Volunteers

Role Model volunteers come from all walks of life. Currently their professions include but are not limited to lawyer, engineer, student, doctor, scientist, salesperson, police officer, contractor, electrician, community organizer, administrator, athlete, teacher, reporter, real estate agent, developer and Mayor.

*“These children do not have a vision of college in their future, they do not think that they can go to college. That it is not a place for them. It is my job to place that vision in them.”*

Rudy Rodriguez, Role Model Volunteer

The Role Model Program trains all volunteers and provides them with the materials needed to teach the Dare to Dream curriculum. Our teachers have identified a strong need for Latino Role Models to be present in our Elementary School and Middle School classrooms.



## Qualifications

- Good, positive communicator.
- Has transportation and time.
- Believes in education as a path to opportunity.
- Enjoys working with children.
- Motivated to create change in our community!

## Time

- Availability during school hours.
- Forty-five minutes of orientation.
- Two hours of training.
- Preparation time before each class.
- One hour a week in a local classroom for six to eight weeks.

## Benefits

- Involvement in a large network of like minded professionals.
- An opportunity to perfect public speaking and presentation skills.
- Feedback from students, teachers and Role Model Program staff.
- Being a star to a class of students!

## Our Funding

The Role Model Program is funded through individual and corporate gifts. The Role Model Program also holds annual fundraising events including The Role Model Program Golf Classic, held each Fall and The Role Model Program Community Breakfast Celebration.

The Role Model Program is a **501c3 non-profit** organization managed by two full time and two part time staff, a twelve member board of directors and an eleven member honorary board of directors.

## Our Visits

### Elementary School Classroom Volunteers

- Make six one-hour visits to a local classroom.
- Encourage children to value their unique skills, talents and dreams.
- Create a space for children to identify positive role models in their lives.
- Introduce goal setting, career exploration, community resources and underline education as a source of freedom and opportunity.

### Middle School Classroom Volunteers

- Make eight one-hour visits over a three month period.
- Give youth a space to identify their dreams and positive role models in their lives.
- Empower youth to gain self-awareness, make positive decisions and set realistic goals.
- Create a space for college preparation in which youth review prerequisite high school courses, practice the personal statement and write to college admissions officials.
- Introduce career exploration including interview practice and resume creation.

*“The Role Model Program has been a huge asset to me for years now. The ability for me to offer students outside perspectives on the benefits of pursuing an academic path has an incredible impact on the interests and motivation of my students and helps me to be more effective as an educator.”*

Pam Micali, Middle School Teacher



*“I learned that I have all these resources out there that I never thought of before.”*

7th Grade Student

## Our Partnerships

**Santa Jose Unified School District** - Serving all underperforming 4th and 7th grades  
**San Jose CALSOAP** - California Student Access and Opportunity Program  
**National Hispanic University** and **Evergreen Community College** - Campus Tours  
**YMCA of Santa Clara Valley** - **Citizen Schools** - Improving after school programs  
**San Jose Police Department** - Gang Awareness and Prevention - **S.T.A.N.D. Program**  
Freedom Corps - **Public Allies** - Advancing Diverse Young Leaders  
Santa Clara Elementary and Middle Schools - **Sixty four schools throughout the County**  
**Silicon Valley Mentoring Collaborative** and **Silicon Valley Council of Non-Profits**  
**Youth Task Force of Santa Clara County** - Community Building Workshops

## Our Information

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Put yourself on a path to volunteer by filling out an application online at:  
[http://www.therolemodelprogram.org/volunteer\\_application\\_form.html](http://www.therolemodelprogram.org/volunteer_application_form.html)