



"Taking Responsibility For Things That Matter"

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### Directions



Steve & participants take a stroll around Minneapolis airport during our 1st stop of Trip USA

My name is Esteban "Steve" Ramos. I started at FYI back in 1999 as a Public Allies intern, and have gone up the ranks to become Associate Executive Director, responsible for all programming related to youth here at FYI.

In our last edition we spoke about the excitement generated by the completion of our brand-new, four-story building. The building is a testament to the growth of the organization, which wouldn't be possible without all of your support. However, within the midst of the excitement there has been a transition at a programmatic level to prepare for such a milestone. In this edition we hope to illustrate the effectiveness of FYI as we grow.

For example, we have moved our veteran staff into new roles. Our very own JoAnn Santiago is now the Administrative Director, and Dahlia Perry is FYI's Nutritionist and Parent Coordinator.

Today, we have 6 front line workers who are being trained and cultivated to be our new generation of staff. Of course, with growth there are growing pains, but I must say that during my eight years at FYI, this has been our most solid and structured program year.

So please enjoy this edition and look for new developments and growth moving forward. Once again, THANK YOU for your continued support of our efforts and remember that none of this would be possible without our collective commitment to the organization.

Sincerely,

Esteban "Steve" Ramos  
Associate Executive Director



Everyday when I come to work it gives me a wonderful feeling of gratefulness to know that I am doing what I like to do. I not only get to prepare a healthy meal for our participants, but I also get to interact with them on a daily basis. It makes my heart smile to hear -"can I have more food", or "it could use a bit more salt". It doesn't really matter, what matters is that they are getting nutritious food.

Dahlia Perry  
Parent Coordinator & Nutritionist



If you want to keep someone really happy, say it with some good food from Mc Dahlia's Cafe.

Ziandry Peralta, age 18

My name is Jiovanny Ojeda, I'm 11 years old. I've been in FYI for two years now. This year has been the best ever for me. I've done 314.5 hours of community service so far, and because all the great things FYI has exposed me to, I plan to continue coming. My favorite service activity is sprucing up gardens, because I know I'm helping Washington Heights look beautiful.

But what I like the best is the new "McDahlia's Cafe."

The food is **WOW!** Always tasty and fresh.



### FYI's 7th Annual Community Action Heroes

On May 10th, Fresh Youth Initiatives hosted the 7th Annual Community Action Heroes Award Ceremony & Benefit at our new youth center. This years honorees were:

- \*Fern Hertzberg, Arc Ft. Washington Senior Center
- \*Carol Strauss, Travel Four
- \*FYI's Graduating Seniors
- Angela Abreu, Gena Heyward, Joffre Peralta
- Rachel Alvarado, Ruben Perez & Ziandry Peralta



Carol Strauss speaks from the heart



Associate Executive Director Steve Ramos Awards Graduating Senior Joffre Peralta

### Mission

To support and encourage the efforts of young people in Washington Heights/Inwood to design and carry out community service projects, develop leadership skills, fulfill their potential and realize their dreams.

fresh youth initiatives