

News Release

2019 Chapel Hill/Carrboro Peacemaking Scholarships Awarded

Chapel Hill/Carrboro (CHC) Peacemaking Scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each have been awarded to **Rosa Aguilar-Perez** and **Marissa Tocci**. Over the past 11 years, 24 Peacemaking Scholarships have been awarded to graduating high school seniors who live or go to school in Chapel Hill or Carrboro. Applicants describe their activism, academic study, and career goals as they relate to non-violent conflict resolution, global community, social justice, ecology, and/or population. Rosa and Marissa received peacemaking scholarships because of their excellent qualifications, record of study and achievement, strong letters of recommendation, and their intention to pursue careers as peacemakers.



While a student at East Chapel Hill High School, **Rosa Aguilar-Perez** was active in the Youth Leadership Institute, Multi-Cultural Student Achievement Network, Project Uplift, East Latinos (founder and former president), Racial Equity for Youth, and Minority Student Achievement Network. She advocated for and helped develop a hybrid course of study to increase minority student participation in advanced and honors courses. She participated in the Social Justice Academy (English, World History, Civics, and U.S. History) and wrote an essay on how high school prepares students to be better citizens and integrate into democratic society. Rosa plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She aspires to a career in the legal system, serving as a District Attorney, working with law-enforcement agencies, and representing people in her community.



While a student at Chapel Hill High School, **Marissa Tocci** founded and was president of the Girl Up Club to raise funds and advocate for girls' access to education, safety, health care, and leadership opportunities in Guatemala, Ethiopia, Liberia, Malawi, India, and Uganda. Her research project on girls in developing countries found that they lack resources and access to basic needs. Her research resulted in a paper titled, "Girls' Access to Education in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East." Marissa plans to attend Appalachian State University. Her career goals include nursing with programs like Doctors Without Borders or the Peace Corps, helping vulnerable communities prosper, policy management of health care, giving voice to those not being heard, contributing to global community, and social justice.

Individuals and organizations who wish to support future peacemaking scholarships can make a financial contribution. Please either click the "Donate" button on the scholarship website – <http://unitedchurch.org/peacemaking> -- or send a check payable to Peacemaking Scholarship Fund to United Church of Chapel Hill, 1321 Martin Luther King, Jr., Blvd., Chapel Hill, NC 27514. The scholarship application form and bios of previous scholarship recipients are also available on the scholarship website.

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