



"They put me in a positive direction"

Story from Julia Tanner

Food Pantry / Advocacy Program staff member

Julia started at LSA as a full-time volunteer in the Food Pantry / Advocacy Program in early 2006, and became a full-time staff member in February 2007

I am a newcomer to New York and still somewhat star-struck by the big city. I love to explore the neighborhoods, enjoy world-class cultural events, and just watch the skyline light up at night. Now, thanks to LSA's Mentoring Program, I have someone to keep me company on my urban adventures. I was paired with Marisela, a 14 year old East Harlem native who dreams of going to college and studying abroad in South America. Even though she was born and raised in New York, she's just beginning to discover the city beyond her neighborhood and I think she's as star-struck as I am.

Even though our perspectives and backgrounds are very different, most of our activities are completely new experiences for both of us. So far our outings have included a Knicks game at Madison Square Gardens, a television taping in Times Square, and a poetry slam at BAM. The program just began offering adolescent girls one-on-one pairings last winter. It is our hope that mentoring at LSA will continue and expand to introduce even more young people to everything their city has to offer.

