



The Big Give 2018

MEYO is excited to participate again in The Big Give, San Antonio's city-wide day of philanthropy. Last year we raised \$11,000 through your support, and we hope to surpass that this year. Please consider a donation on March 22 by clicking on our campaign [link](#). Thanks for your generosity!



Meet Oscar Chacon, Youth Coordinator of House of Teens



Oscar grew up as an only child a block away from the MEYO offices. His mother got involved with [Time Dollar](#) and [House of Neighborly Service](#), two nonprofit partners that share the Divine Redeemer campus, and this connected Oscar to Peace Pals and House of Teens. The support and guidance he found here became a pillar of his life.

"So many people have had a positive and inspiring influence on me," he says. "Pastor Rob Mueller taught me how to deepen my relationship with God. Drew Williams taught me gratitude and how to be patient with others. Arlene Esparza taught me leadership skills, especially how to think outside the box. And all of them, just like Lea Watson today, told me again and again to 'stay in school!'"

Growing up, Oscar witnessed the poverty, drugs, and dropout rates that plague our West Side neighborhood. His solid family upbringing and innate character helped him avoid these influences. He would have continued his education anyway, but MEYO offered a lasting advantage through scholarship support. Oscar graduated with an A.A. degree from Travis Early College High School, San Antonio, then went on to complete a B.A. in psychology, minor in criminal justice, through the University of Houston, Victoria, graduating in 2017.

In this first year after graduation, Oscar made a decision that highlights the heart of MEYO's values. He returned to serve on staff, funded partially through Americorps.

"This is my way of showing gratitude for the support I received," he says. "In this life, everyone has opportunities, but not everyone has the same equity. MEYO's programs help increase this equity, and we hope that many of the youth we serve will eventually have an impact on this community."