



## GABRIELLA BRIGNARDELLO: *touching young, impoverished lives*



Last year, Gabriella Brignardello received the Distinguished Alumna Award from La Reina High School & Middle School for her outstanding service to impoverished children in Lima, Peru. A member of

La Reina's Class of 2012, Gabriella's passions were encouraged by Sr. Rebekah Kennedy, her religion teacher in both the 7th and 11th grades. Gabriella graduated from Stanford University in 2016, with a Bachelor of Science in Symbolic Systems (concentrating on Human Computer Interaction) as well as a minor in Spanish. For the past 18 months, she has been working as a Senior Associate for Parthenon-EY, (a global strategy consulting firm) at their Los Angeles office.

At the age of 15, Gabriella founded *Mi Casa de Angeles* with the intent of building schools and supporting a higher quality of education within the impoverished area of Pachacutec, Peru. As a LRHS student, Gabriella began raising the initial funding for the 501(c)3 non-profit, by means of frequent large-scale garage sales within the community of Thousand Oaks. Gabriella's efforts for the deserving children in Peru embodies the goal stated in the Educational Vision & Principles

of the Sisters of Notre Dame, "Nurturing in ourselves and others an ongoing commitment to act with preferential care and love on behalf of those who are poor and marginalized, especially women and children."

In March of 2015, *Mi Casa de Angeles* and its Peruvian NGO partner *Sembrando Juntos*, opened a joint nursery, preschool and daycare within the slums of Pachacutec, Peru. By 2018, the school served over 300 students from the surrounding areas, operating with four classrooms and a communal library. Over the past nine years, they have raised over \$300,000 through US/Peruvian donations from more than 15 fundraising events.

Today, Gabriella still fulfills her role as Founder and CEO of *Mi Casa de Angeles*. Reflecting on her formative years at LRHS Gabriella says, "What stands out most to me about the SNDs and their ministry is their consistent and true dedication to education. I believe that education is one of the more powerful tools we can obtain or give in this world. They say, if you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day; but if you teach a man to fish, you can feed him for a lifetime – and I think that the SNDs' focus on providing their local and global communities with education demonstrates their shared belief in this idea."