

## Luminari Essay

By Nolvín Buezo Gutierrez

I immigrated to the United States in July of 2021 from Honduras. I currently live in a shelter in Pittsburgh, the Holy Family Institute, and I attend Avonworth High School as an eleventh grader. In both of these institutions, I have had to get along with many different kinds of people by using tact and good communication skills.

At the shelter, there are students from many different countries and with various immigration difficulties. There are twelve of us, and we are all between the ages of 16 to 18 years old. Many times there are conflicts because of the close quarters, but I have learned that communication is key to helping my housemates live together in peace. When someone gets angry, I try to make a joke or change the subject to lighten the mood. I, also, make sure that I greet everyone and talk to all the kids in the house. I participate in all of the group activities that Holy Family organizes because it helps me to feel connected to the others in the shelter and to create a stronger community.

At high school, I have to work with many different types of teachers, and I have learned that there are some behaviors that are important to demonstrate with all of them in order to have a good relationship. I pay attention in all of my classes and complete all of my assignments. In some classes, I try to help translate for other students in the class. Sometimes I help the other English Language Learners complete their assignments. For these reasons, I have been chosen for advanced classes in English and Math.

Through all of these experiences, I have understood the importance of diplomacy, but I have not had formal training in how to improve my relationship building skills. I would like to improve my diplomatic techniques through training, and I think the Luminari Ambassador Program would help me to achieve this goal.