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News Release

Tenaflly High School Senior on a Mission

Alexa Cuevas' Personal Experience Uniquely Designed to Aid Others

Tenaflly, NJ – February 28, 2024 – Alexa Cuevas, Tenaflly High School senior, was recently recognized in NorthJersey.com's [Student of the Week](#) poll (second place, Feb. 2). An outstanding student, Alexa's efforts outside the classroom have earned her special praise and recognition, and are deeply personal.

About Alexa Cuevas, Tenaflly High School Senior:

Seventeen year old Alexa Cuevas, who notes that architecture and interior design are her "passions", has a perspective and wisdom beyond many her age. As a daughter of immigrants from Mexico, she grew up speaking Spanish, learning English while at school (within the borough of Tenaflly since elementary school, and moving to Tenaflly Middle School in the 6th grade). Today, she is president of the High School Spanish Club, focused on educating others - including preschoolers - about Spanish-language culture and traditions.



Alexa's own "interior design" extends to having a close family member with Hemophilia B. Spending most of her life learning about the bleeding disorder, she eagerly welcomed the opportunity to become more active in volunteering with related organizations such as the New York City Hemophilia Chapter (NYCHC), which is part of HFA (Hemophilia Federation of America) and NBDF (National Bleeding Disorder Foundation). Through the years, she has helped the NYC chapter organize and run special events, including children's events. She especially enjoys interacting with children from the Latino community who have severe forms of hemophilia requiring infusions regularly. "I've always been a part of the hemophilia community and recently learned that I too, have mild hemophilia B," she explained. "I felt connected with those teens and kids whose parents speak Spanish and don't understand a lot about the condition." When the

pandemic hit, Alexa recalls the many Latino families within the NYC Hemophilia Chapter's community who lost their jobs and were unable to pay basic bills including heat and electricity. Alexa and her mother organized several food drives within Tenaflly, and sent groceries directly (using Uber) to those in need in the Bronx, Queens, and other NYC locations.

Most recently, Alexa participated in the chapter's "Washington Days", an advocacy event to speak to elected members of the U.S. Congress. "I didn't know much about the legal aspect of this and I got to meet people from chapters across the country. We were looking for support for HTC's (Hemophilia Treatment Centers within specialized hospitals) as well as better insurance policies because many of these medicines are very expensive."



Jeremy Griffin, Executive Director of the NYC Hemophilia Chapter, noted, "Alexa has a unique ability to see a challenge and accomplish more than most would think is even possible. I believe this ability comes from a combination of her deep passion to make a difference, and her innate skills to rally a group around a cause." Her collective work in this area earned her a [Teen Impact Award](#) in 2021. She and her family were also asked to join the New York City Hemophilia Chapter to ring the Nasdaq bell in the spring of 2023.

With plans for a degree in architecture starting this fall, Alexa Cuevas is just getting started. "Community service is very important to me. It's important to give back and to care about other people. That's how we become better ourselves."

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About Hemophilia

Hemophilia is a bleeding disorder. There are two types of hemophilia - A and B. For more information, visit: <https://www.hemophilia.org/bleeding-disorders-a-z/types/hemophilia-a> and <https://www.hemophilia.org/bleeding-disorders-a-z/types/hemophilia-b>

About Tenaflly Public Schools

The Tenaflly Public School District is at the forefront of education. With approximately 3,700 students attending our six schools - four elementary (K-5), one middle school (6-8), and one high school (9-12) - the New Jersey district is known for its academic excellence and high student achievement.

For more information on Tenaflly Public Schools, visit <https://www.tenaflyschools.org>. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram & X (@TenafllySchools).