



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# CRISANTOS Y SUCCESS STORY

## Youth Education and Employment Program METROCENTER YMCA

### REAL PEOPLE, REAL INSPIRATION

Crisantos had just turned 20 before he came to Metrocenter Y in the summer of 2010, and to say that he had struggled with academics and personal issues in high school would be an understatement. “Drugs and getting high were a big part of my life before,” he explained. “I was too used to getting by on charm, and then one day I realized I could only manipulate people for so long. I realized if I was going to get my GED and move forward I was going to have to take control of my life.”

Crisantos started working with his youth development specialist and GED tutor in July, and his high level of commitment to reaching his education and employment goals became evident through his consistency, his effort, and his ability

to communicate honestly and effectively. In August, a chance to work as an apprentice with Metrocenter’s Boys Outdoor Leadership Development (B.O.L.D.) program arose, and he took full advantage of the opportunity. He co-lead a group of middle school boys on a week-long trip to the North Cascades. He earned the trust of his youth, colleagues, and supervisor—he also continued to learn about just how much he was capable of accomplishing. “I really realized on that trip that I can choose to be however I want to be—that I can take control and lead others in the process.”

On December 22, 2010, Crisantos was officially awarded his GED credential. He now plans to attend Seattle Central Community College in Spring quarter where he plans to study Human Services. “I’ve attended so many programs,” he explained. “Military school, rehab, group homes—you name it. But this is the thing that caught me.”

