

# Profiles in Leadership

## Finding his second home

*Jimmy Iniguez*



“Before I found Hope Street,” Jimmy said, “I would sit around sometimes and look at the phone book to find organizations that worked with youth.” Jimmy always knew he had a voice; it was just a matter of finding it and being able to use it. He got involved with Hope Street when he was given a flyer for a Board of Education meeting Students United members were attending to speak out against discrimination.

Jimmy has been a key leader for Students the United anti-discrimination campaign for a year and has been involved with negotiation meetings with two of the USD 259 board members, helped chair a public meeting with over 100 attendees, and has attended several Students United strategy meetings.

Since then has become involved in nearly every aspect of Hope Street. He is a leader with the Reality Project and participated in the National LGBTQ Tobacco Summit; in the Academic Program Jimmy has worked to ensure good grades and that he is prepared for college. He has also been an active participant in Youth Empowerment Group.

Not only has Jimmy experienced a sense of community at Hope Street, but that his time at Hope Street has helped him become a stronger leader. “Now that I have practice in writing and giving speeches, talking with public officials and helping run community meetings – I am more prepared to launch my political career and practice law like I have always wanted.”

Jimmy wants other young people to know that if they are told to “shut-up” and “be quiet” to brush it off because if young people do not speak out than nothing will ever change. “I am looking forward to the future and making change when I leave Hope Street. But even when I graduate, let everybody know that Hope Street has not seen the last of me!”



**The mission of Hope Street Youth Development is to provide opportunities for youth to build power and reach their full potential so they may think for themselves, speak for themselves and act in their community.**

For more information how Hope Street Youth Development is making a difference and changing lives, visit other Profiles in Leadership at [www.hopstreet.com/profiles/](http://www.hopstreet.com/profiles/)

If you want to get involved or help support our work visit [www.hopstreet.com/involved](http://www.hopstreet.com/involved) or call 316.263.7325.

### From the Director

The greatest testament to the power of Hope Street Youth Development is in the lives of young people that are changed everyday.

This series contains a mixture of current students and graduates of Hope Street.

We provide these stories because we know that the work of youth development is not abstract philosophy but instead personal, intensive work with real people. These are their stories.

We measure our success by the difference we make in the lives of individual students because it's the only true measure of leadership development.

I hope these stories will help you believe in the work of Hope Street as much as I do and that you will consider joining us as we make a difference by changing lives.

Aaron Fowler  
Executive Director