

## MONTHLY STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



### Romän Chia

Jubilee Christian Academy, Pensacola, Fla.

Romän A.J. Chia, who has been on the Step Up For Students Scholarship Program since 2004, is a shining example of the positive effects the right academic environment can have on a child.

Romän's grades and overall outlook on school and life have changed dramatically since attending Jubilee Christian Academy in Pensacola, a school that has enabled him to overcome his struggles and work towards a promising future.

Romän was six years old when his parents separated; shortly thereafter, he began having problems in school. As time went on, Romän's behavior in the classroom and at home began to worsen and his grades suffered. By the time he was in sixth grade, Romän was receiving in-school suspensions and his grades had dropped from A's and B's to D's and F's. Romän's school was unable to help him overcome his struggles, and as a single parent, Romän's mother, Lisa, knew she could not afford to send her son to private school. During her search to find a remedy for her son, Lisa learned about the Step Up For Students Scholarship Program through Jubilee Christian Academy, the school her daughter was already attending on a McKay Scholarship, which is a taxpayer funded scholarship for special needs children. After applying and being accepted on the Step Up For Students Scholarship Program, Lisa chose to send Romän to Jubilee Christian Academy, which was 33 miles away from their home in Navarre. Since her daughter was already attending Jubilee, Lisa was familiar with the school and knew what they could offer her son: one-on-one attention, smaller class sizes, a family atmosphere and positive role models.

Upon entering Jubilee Christian Academy, Romän took an entrance exam to test his academic level and he tested high enough to be promoted to the next grade level – eighth grade – proving that he had more potential than what he had been demonstrating at his previous school. Now in the ninth grade, Romän is excelling academically and his behavior in school and at home has improved drastically. His grades are now A's and B's, and he has changed from an angry boy into an optimistic young man who cares not only about his academic career, but his family and his future as well.

Lisa Chia is very proud of her son's accomplishments. Although it is a sacrifice for Lisa to make the 33-mile drive to and from the school daily, she sincerely believes "the benefits outweigh the drawbacks by leaps and bounds!" and the long drive gives them time to spend together as a family. Lisa feels honored to be part of the Step Up For Students program and she is thankful to the donors who have invested in her son's future and care about his success. Since being on the scholarship program, Romän has become more appreciative of the encouragement and support he receives, and he does not take his scholarship for granted. Romän perceives his scholarship as a gift. Drawing from what his mother taught him, Romän feels that he owes doing a good job and succeeding not only to himself, but also to the Step Up For Students donors who have made his accomplishments possible and who take the time to invest in the success of thousands of other students.

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### **About Jubilee Christian Academy**

Located in Pensacola, Fla., Jubilee Christian Academy is an extension of Jubilee International Ministries. Dr. Lindell Ballenger, founder and visionary of Jubilee International Ministries, founded the academy in 1993. Beginning with only 12 faculty members and 48 children, Jubilee Christian Academy has grown to include 267 students in grades Pre-K through 12. Jubilee currently serves 22 Step Up For Students scholarship recipients. The annual cost of tuition at Jubilee is \$3,050, plus the cost of registration and books.

### **About the Step Up For Students Scholarship Recipients**

The typical Step Up For Students scholarship family has an average income of \$22,074 for a family of four, and more than half of the scholarship families are single-parent homes. The typical scholarship student is an ethnic minority living with a struggling single parent/caregiver in a high crime community. They are either below grade level, failing at their previous school or both when they receive a scholarship. Parents, who find their children in these circumstances and care about their future, look for viable options. Parents apply for Step Up For Students Scholarships so their children can attend the school best suited for their special needs, beliefs, and abilities, and to address negative trends in their child's learning skills and/or environment.

Step Up For Students Scholarships are funded by corporations that redirect up to 75 percent of their corporate state income tax liability to a qualified Scholarship Funding Organization in exchange for a dollar-for-dollar tax credit. For more information or to learn how your corporation can participate in the program, visit [www.StepUpForStudents.com](http://www.StepUpForStudents.com), or call 1-877-677-KIDS for more information.