

**Step Up For Students
May 2007 Student Spotlight:**



**Daniel Lora
Trinity Lutheran School
Ft. Lauderdale, FL**

Daniel Lora is an eighth-grader at Trinity Lutheran School in Ft. Lauderdale, a school he has attended for the past two years on a Step Up For Students Scholarship. Trinity Lutheran's academic programs have helped Daniel begin on a path towards a promising future.

When Daniel's family moved from New York to Florida in 2002, Daniel began attending the local public elementary school. After only a few months at the school, he started to have problems. He was being bullied by his peers and his performance in his classes started to decline. Daniel was able to get through elementary school, but when it came time for him to go to middle school, his parents, José and Pamela, feared his troubles in school would escalate. The growing violence problems at the public middle school were a big concern to Daniel's parents. They worried that the environment at this school would continue to negatively impact his grades, and ultimately, his future.

Knowing that Daniel was a bright student with great potential, José and Pamela searched for alternatives. While browsing the Internet for educational options for Daniel, Pamela came across the Florida P.R.I.D.E. program that offered Step Up For Students Scholarships to low-income families to send their children to a public or private school of choice. The family applied for the program and was ecstatic when Daniel received a scholarship a couple months later.

Daniel began attending Trinity Lutheran in the 2005-06 school year. Daniel's parents chose to send him to Trinity Lutheran because of the small, safe environment and the academic programs that challenged and engaged the students in learning and preparing for the future. During the past two years at Trinity Lutheran, Daniel has consistently made A's in his classes and developed many interests that have helped him grow in mentally and socially. Daniel's teachers praise him for his good grades and excellent behavior and report that he is a gift to the school.

At only 13 years old, Daniel is already preparing for college thanks to the academic programs at Trinity Lutheran. Daniel also enjoys participating in the school's extracurricular activities, such as the drama and community service programs. He has even become a mentor to other students through the school's mentor program. Mentoring gives Daniel an opportunity to share his knowledge with younger students and help them overcome their own struggles.

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At the end of the 2006-07 school year, Daniel will graduate from eighth grade and continue on to another private high school with the help from a Step Up For Students Scholarship. José and Pamela are very proud of his accomplishments and acknowledge that none of this would have been possible without the help from Step Up For Students and its corporate donors.

About Trinity Lutheran School

A ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church in Fort Lauderdale, Trinity Lutheran School has served the community since 1933. The school currently has 64 students, two of which are Step Up For Students scholarship recipients. The school annually administers the Stanford Achievement Test (SAT). The cost of tuition at Trinity Lutheran is \$4,000 not including books, registration and other fees.

About the Step Up For Students Scholarship Recipients

The typical Step Up For Students scholarship family has an average income of \$23,000 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, or call 1-800 782-9140 for more information.

