



Kids' Community

4-H Afterschool Improves Brothers' Grades, Behavior

(NAPSA)—Danny and Milo Guerrero had been troubled youth.

Their grades were suffering because the brothers did not have anyone to help them with their homework after school. Their mother, Maria, could not speak or read English, and no one else was around to help them.

Danny wasn't afraid to show his negative attitude to others. Milo was extremely timid and did not know how to adapt to a social setting. As a result, their lives were in turmoil.

Today, these boys have very different stories to tell.

Danny, rebellious and defiant, only attended the 4-H Afterschool Club at the Reno Housing Authority's Essex Manor Community Center because his mother insisted. Then, things began to change. Danny's tough guy act yielded to the care and concern of the 4-H staff. Realizing that his actions did not get him anywhere, he began to listen to those around him. He focused on his grades, accepting help from the tutors. He even made sure he finished his homework though sometimes it meant he had to work beyond the time set aside for academics.

"The program really did help me with my school work, and it taught me manners. Now I use this at home," Danny said.

After four years of steady 4-H participation, 14-year-old Danny is a teen leader who mentors other youth in similar situations. The homework help he receives from 4-H Afterschool—sponsored nation-



ally by The JCPenney Afterschool Fund—improved his grades, bringing him closer to his dreams of a college football scholarship and the opportunity to study engineering.

Tutoring from the 4-H staff helped 10-year-old Milo not only dramatically improve his math and reading skills but also become more comfortable with himself and his new friends—a big step for a once-shy boy.

Now, Milo never passes up the chance to stand in front of a group and tell stories or answer questions in class. In fact, he has starred in several plays. Milo is active in the housing authority's youth advisory board and has participated in communication, leadership and teamwork training, which he shares with other board members.

Danny and Milo Guerrero are part of a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship and life skills every day through 4-H Afterschool programs. For more information, visit www.4husa.org.