Maria Suarez is an amazing eleventh grader who attends Akins High School. Though Maria got her start with Con Mi MADRE in 2008, her mother and name-sake, has been involved with our organization since early 2002. In the spirit of legacy, Maria has followed in her older sister's footsteps and has become the latest success in a long line of family achievement. One of her sisters, also a Con Mi MADRE graduate, is our own newly appointed Program Director, Karen Gonzalez.

Con Mi MADRE offers so many engaging programs that it is difficult for our girls to select one favorite. When asked to choose, Maria admittedly gravitates towards volunteering in the community. Con Mi MADRE requires mother-daughter teams to complete 15 hours of volunteer service. Maria and her mother often volunteer far beyond the required hours. You will see their welcoming smiles at our yearly Graduation Ceremony or wrapping gifts and spreading cheer to families at the Brown Santa event during the Holiday Season.

With successful sisters and a supportive mother, Maria is inspired and excited to take on the world and pass on the lessons she has learned. In the future, she not only



looks forward to increasing her volunteer activities, but she is excited about continuing the tradition of being the next family member to earn her college degree.