

## Xochil's Story: Translating Connection into Confidence



My name is Xochil Malagon, and I'm a sophomore at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School. This year, I'm an intern with Junior Achievement (JA), and I've had some amazing experiences helping out at BizTown and Finance Park.

One moment that really stuck with me at BizTown was when I helped a young girl who only spoke Spanish. Her teachers couldn't help her, so I stepped in to translate and show her what to do. By the end of the day, she nailed her tasks, and I felt so happy knowing I could make her experience better. At Finance Park, I worked with another Spanish-speaking student, helping her be a part of her group and figure out her assignments. Watching her grow more confident and finish everything was so inspiring.

Through these experiences, I've learned a lot about myself. I've realized how much I enjoy helping others and that I'm really good at connecting with kids. I've also grown more confident in my Spanish skills and realize that being bilingual is such a valuable strength. I've discovered that I can make a difference just by being patient, supportive, and willing to step in when someone needs help.

Being part of JA has taught me so much about myself and others. I've learned how strong and determined students can be when they have someone cheering them on. JA isn't just about learning careers or money—it's about helping students see what they're capable of. I'm so glad I get to be a part of it.