

## 2014 JOSE EDUARDO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS SPEECH PRESENTATION

In 2009, in memory of José Eduardo Lopez, a scholarship to benefit Latino youth in Hamilton is established. José Eduardo, a human rights activist & journalist was kidnapped on December 24, 1984, tortured, executed and buried in a clandestine cemetery by members of battalion 3-16 of the armed forces of the State of Honduras. These facts were confirmed in 1993, in a report published by the Human Rights Commissioner of Honduras. The case of Eduardo was adopted by Amnesty International and was published in the annual report on human rights violations in Honduras in 1986.

JELMS Board consists of eight people. Each year, we all go to extraordinary lengths to attend the committee meetings and keep the committee active. This was a particularly challenging year, as we all had to juggle jobs, families, post secondary studies, and other volunteer work we do in the community. Thankfully, Dana Hall and Yurissa Varela volunteered to be the organizers of this year's fundraising fiesta. The event was very successful, thanks to contributions from sponsors, prize donations from local businesses, food sales, the participation of talented singers and the quiet but so helpful volunteers who assisted in the event from start to finish. We even had an artist who created a replica of the Human Rights monument erected in Ghent, Belgium in memory of José Eduardo.



### ***JELMS Board and 2014 Event Coordinators***

JELMS has received meaningful support from the Latin American community and Hamilton in general and the board thanks all those who have and continue to support this noble project. Thanks to donations and funds raised this year we are able to grant scholarships to three outstanding students, who will be asked to come up to the stage: Pablo Vallve Antelo, Christian Betancourt and Luis Felipe Villa Castro.

Pablo, the son of a single mother, aspires to obtain a Bachelor degree in Social Science in International Studies and Modern Languages at the University of Ottawa, with the goal of continuing his education and become a lawyer. He wrote in his essay "...applying for this scholarship will alleviate many of the costs related to my future education...I am also eager to show the community at large that the youth of Hispanic heritage are positively contributing to Canadian society...My values, beliefs and goals have been greatly influenced by my heritage and even my career choice reflects the ideal of justice for all."

Christian studies at Brock University where he hopes to obtain a degree in Biomedical Sciences. His future ambition is to obtain a medical degree specializing in reconstructive plastic surgery. In his essay he wrote: "I am passionate about the idea of being able to help all those people who either by birth, illness or injury require surgical correction that allows them to reduce or eliminate deformation affecting their appearance, self-esteem and body function ... Thanks to the education I received as a child of a Hispanic family, I have been able to manage my life responsibly as a student, son and brother ..."

Luis Felipe attends Brock University where he hopes to obtain the Bachelor of Science degree in the Medical Sciences program. His aspiration is to become Odontologist. In his essay Luis wrote: "I am applying for this scholarship because it would be a great support for me since I do not have the help of my father, who passed away last year due to cancer, and he had provided financially for my mother and me. I want to become a successful Odontologist to make my father proud of me. However, attending university is very expensive ... with the help of this scholarship, it would be a step up for me to fulfill my dream...Latin America has had agents of change as Jose Eduardo López whose ideals of a better society through education for all young people in particular, equality of opportunity, respect and restoration of the values and rights of people, are truly inspiring..."

These young people are pride of our community and outstanding students. JELMS is pleased to present them with the following scholarships:



### ***2014 Scholarship winners: Christian Betancourt \$ 2,000; Luis Felipe Villa \$ 3,000 and Pablo Vallve Antelo \$ 1,000.***

JELMS board of directors and on behalf of all our donors, we wish Luis Felipe, Christian, and Pablo every success in their studies and career aspirations.

Before we end, we have an announcement to make: Thanks to tremendous support JELMS has received, the board is pleased to announce that effective the month of November, we will accept applications for bursaries for up to \$ 500.00 for persons over 24 years of age to be used for schooling, for books, a laptop, printer, tuition fees, etc. If you are interested (or) in applying, please send an email to:

[beca\\_jel@hotmail.com](mailto:beca_jel@hotmail.com) or visit [www.jelms.org](http://www.jelms.org)