



Amnesty International's Monument to Missing Persons - Sculpture by Marf (Located in Ghent, Belgium)

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# 2016

## Annual Report

Once again, JELMS had a successful year. We raised more than \$4,000 during our Annual Fundraising Fiesta, and a small, yet faithful number of regular donors continued to make significant financial contributions and support our efforts to grant scholarships and bursaries to Latino students.

Our donors, supporters and volunteers are a constant source of drive and inspiration for all board members. We acknowledge, thank and credit YOU for eight successful years of our existence.

The JELMS board of directors has a simple objective: to offer financial support to Latino students who work hard to attain post-secondary education and to help alleviate the burden of debt caused by rising tuition costs.

We look forward to exploring the possibility of expanding JELMS criteria with the goal of reaching students other than Latino in our local college and university. We aim to reach students doing outstanding work in the fields of journalism, social work, and human rights.

This year, three dedicated university students were recipients of scholarships totalling \$8,000 and two mature students received bursaries for \$500 each. Since its foundation JELMS has granted \$38,000 to twenty-six award-winning students. The scholarships benefit the winners but also their families in ways we can never anticipate or imagine. Claudia, this year's winner of the \$4,000 scholarship is the daughter of an amazing single mom. During her interview she told us that she had dreamt of winning the scholarship since she



The JELMS board members with 2016 Scholarship winners

was a little girl. She was inspired years ago, as a child, when she watched a family member become the recipient of the JELMS scholarship and saw how it changed her life. Stories like this and the loyalty of our donors and supporters renew our desire to do even better every year. There are children watching and dreaming that, they too, can aspire to be a scholarship winner someday.

Thanks to YOU once again, for trusting and supporting us in achieving our objective. You have our promise that we will continue to be transparent and responsible stewards of your financial contributions.

At the beginning of next year we will make our financial statements available to all our donors and supporters.

*Nora Melara-Lopez, President  
The JELMS Board of Directors*