

My name is Marlen and I am a senior at Roosevelt High School. I am proud of who I am because there are a lot of obstacles in life, but I always make it through.

When I was in 9-11 grades, I worked hard in school to get good grades like A's and B's. My parents never taught me that if I do well on something they would give me a present. They said that you have got to be proud of yourself for accomplishing something in your life, but shouldn't expect to get something every time you do well. Well, every time I got my grades and saw them, I felt proud of myself for my achievements.

January 30th, 2008 was one of the most important moments in my life because I became a member of the National Honor Society (NHS). I found out about the National Honor Society through a letter I received in the mail saying that I qualified for NHS and had to fill out an application describing the activities I had done in school and in the community. It also said that I would be competing with other students at my school, but few of us would be selected. We would all have to show we had leadership in school and in the community.

I filled out the application and it took me like a week to find out if I got accepted. When I heard the wonderful news I felt really proud. And in order to become an official member of NHS they have to give you a certificate and welcome you during a ceremony that they prepared just for us.

NHS is about leadership and involvement in the community by showing that you care about others. We also have to set an example for other students to follow, you know through leadership and good grades in school.

On January 30, 2008 I became an official member of NHS. My brother was with me at the ceremony. He told me he wants to become part of NHS and I told him he would have to work even harder in school. And I encouraged him to do well because in order to be a member of NHS you have to maintain a certain GPA (grade point average).

What we do in NHS is raise money for Operation Smile which uses the money to help kids who were born with some disorder in their face. Because of this, they can't smile and the money we raise pays for the doctors to do operations so they can smile again.

Being in NHS means a lot to mean because this is an opportunity that life has given me and I am willing to do my best. I really want to do well in school and be a help to my community. One thing that I want people to know about NHS is that if you really want to be a part of it, you need to work hard in school. Also, NHS does a lot of events for schools and communities and you need to be committed to that. By participating in NHS events, you get to show leadership and develop skills that will give you character. As a student, I encourage all teenagers to work hard in school – and not to give up on their dreams. Because if we want to reach our dreams, we have got to work hard and believe in ourselves and stay focused.