

Francheska Middle School

Youth Block Report



Francheska

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Francheska likes to sing, mostly gospel music, draw, and help people in the community. She was the only student to say she expected to go to graduate school in addition to college: "It really makes me feel good about myself that I think I can accomplish all those goals." She describes her family as "really together," and is close with both immediate and extended family: "[I live with] my mom, my dad, my 2 brothers and my sister that's here today. I have 2 cousins. They could be my sisters because they live with us off and on, and we're really close. I have another cousin. She's 18, and I have a cousin who's 2 years old who's gonna be my godson. So, we're all together, and my grandma and grandpa."

When working on Youth Block Reports, Francheska particularly liked getting out into the community and working in teams: "We got to take pictures with what was wrong with the community. We're just trying our best to live better in this world...we have a councilman that wants to do the same as us kids, and it surprised me that not just me, that I want to help the community but other kids want to... Kevin McCarty is the city councilman who wants to help."

Given a magic wand for her community, she would add fun places for kids to go to – a swimming pool, and "more shelters for people and animals, because there's a lot of people on the street. There's only like 2 shelters where I live, and there's a lot of people trying to get in them."

Francheska is 13 years old, and when asked to describe her racial and ethnic identity, she said the following:

Francheska: I'm Native American. I'm Pit River, and I'm Mexican, but I don't speak Spanish...My dad's, like, full Pit River. Sometimes my dad's cousin would ask me to go practice with them when they Aztec dance. We don't really, like, celebrate, like, the Mexican things....But I like the race I am because one Native American could be Mexican. Both of my cultures are really good to learn about. I like being Native American and Mexican. I was learning to Aztec dance, but when the school got closed down, then I stopped. I do go to Powwows, but I don't dance.



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