

## A pair of shoes has led her in the right direction

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**N**ancy Hinojos and the Kiwanis Club of Rolling Hills Estates have formed an amazing bond and friendship, and their story is definitely an example of a Kiwanis moment.

It all began in second grade when Nancy came to Project Shoe. Project Shoe is a partnership project between the Kiwanis Club of RHE and Payless Shoe Source. At this memorable and fun event school shoes and socks are provided to approximately 90 deserving children each year. Project Shoe also features entertainment and refreshments.

Fast forward to Nancy's senior year in high school.

The connection between the two was not made known to Rolling Hills until Nancy was a recipient of a Kiwanis of RHE scholarship. At the dinner presentation, Nancy told RHE that they had met previously when she was a young student.

shoes and took the opportunity to tell audience of that day many years ago and how much it meant to her to receive a new pair of shoes so she could attend school.

At the time of her scholarship recognition, Nancy's family had overwhelming financial need. Her teachers and counselor praised her enthusiasm for life and her dedication to learning everything possible.

Nancy received a full student grant from Georgetown University but still had to raise approximately \$8,000 a year. Because of her achievements, she was chosen for a special 3-2 program. At the end of five years, she will earn two degrees, the first from Georgetown University (science, technology and international affairs) and the second from Columbia University (mechanical engineering.). She is looking forward to a career in engineering and federal intelligence.

And the story continues and connection continues.

At the end of her sophomore year 2013, Nancy received a Continuing Scholar Award from RHE. RHE Kiwanian Joyce Campbell wrote at that time: " Nancy is working as an Operations Assistant in the Office of Admissions while maintaining a rigorous course load. During her



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second year, Nancy has assumed more leadership and service roles. She joined Men and Women for Others, a university service club, and Cura Personalis, an organization to promote self-development. Nancy was selected

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as one of two coordinators for the

Leadership Program in the Office of Student Affairs. Nancy is involved with the School of Foreign Service Academic Council and, believe it or not, she is a member of Groove Theory, a varsity hip-hop dance team.

Through the Patrick Healy Fellowship, Nancy extends her service to the DC community. The fellowship partners with the DC Central Kitchen, tutoring middle school students in the inner city, assembling food to distribute to the homeless and many other projects.

Last summer, Nancy interned with Northrop Grumman Information Systems. She worked in Software Configuration Management for the James Webb Space Telescope.

This summer Nancy will work for Boeing, under the defense contractor segment of the company. She will be in Washington, DC, for the internship and to work for Georgetown's Opportunities for Leadership

Development administrative office. If accepted, Nancy will take an intensive leadership seminar with Credit Suisse.

One of Georgetown's mentors wrote: "Her resume is quite impressive and speaks to her talent, intellect and work ethic. However, to focus on her resume alone is to miss the spark and drive that she brings to all she does. She is deserving of recognition for both her merit and her heart, for that is what she truly brings to every endeavor she undertakes."

And in email communication from Nancy to her RHE Kiwanis friends she writes: "A little bit of an update on my end and a couple videos for you too—I recently signed my contract with Boeing and will be working in the Springfield, VA office for the summer. I am really excited and so grateful. I am also in the middle of seeing if a small study abroad program can replace my 'May-term.' I have the opportunity to visit Tanzania, learn Swahili and visit the Safari with Georgetown students and faculty. While the details are not solidified, it's what I'm looking into."

This beautiful story and connection between a young girl needing shoes who has grown up and is doing amazing things is one that reminds us all of why we are proud to be members of Kiwanis International.