



## Get to Know Your City Representative Cynthia Llerenas

Written by Stephanie Elgin

City Representative, Cynthia Llerenas, is simply amazing. For the past nine years, Cynthia has been employed with the City of Santa Clarita as a Community Services Supervisor. She is responsible for the administration of the Anti-Gang Task Force youth programs, Graffiti Removal Programs, Youth Employment Service program and the Santa Clarita Community Court program for teens. She also provides resources to at-risk teens, young adults, ex-offenders and gang-affiliated teens in crisis. Cynthia was named City of Santa Clarita's 2004 Employee of the Year and Community Leader of the Year 2007 by the Hispanic Business Committee of the Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce. She is one committed city representative.

After receiving her teaching degree, Cynthia worked as a part-time prevention specialist for the Blythe Street Prevention Program, a non-profit youth outreach program developed to intervene in the lives of troubled and gang affiliated teens. Cynthia stated, "I enjoyed what I was doing, and decided to stay in the field of prevention. I still teach, but in a different capacity."

Outside of work, Cynthia enjoys spending time with her boyfriend. "We have a unique relationship," says Cynthia, "where we have virtually everything in common." She also likes to spend time with her niece and nephew. "We go to Disneyland, Magic Mountain, Raging Waters and other places kids like to hang out. I also use this time to talk to them on how to deal with teen issues. Although I don't have any kids of my own, I like being a second mother to my niece and nephew."

Cynthia also enjoys playing basketball. At age 15, she started playing basketball with the guys at a local park in her neighborhood. She played in high school, for Los Angeles Pierce College, and received a scholarship to play at Cal State Northridge. "I enjoyed the game so much, " stated Cynthia, " that I tried out for the Los Angeles Sparks, a women's professional basketball team."

As if that weren't enough, in her early 20's, Cynthia competed in all natural bodybuilding competitions. Although Cynthia placed eighth out of eight women in her first body building competition, her fierce competitive nature said, "Eight isn't good enough," and she persevered. In following competitions, she placed third, second and then first. She won the overall competition, which "sealed the deal for me" stated Cynthia. She retired as a Champion bodybuilder. For Cynthia, running became another hobby—running five Los Angeles Marathons. She found that the intense training to prepare your body for a marathon and compete was worth it. "Besides, it was the only time I got to run wild in the streets of Los Angeles!"

Cynthia Llerenas is a remarkable woman. She is a driven individual and strives for only the best, both at work and outside of work. "I count my blessings everyday," says Cynthia. Thank you, Cynthia, for all your hard work and devotion to making our City a great one.