

*Employer Representative Ana Sandoval, Richard Marriott, Youth Achievement Award Winner Fernanda Perez and Job Coach Sharon Toledo at the 2012 Los Angeles Marriott Bridges Employer Recognition Reception, held at the Marriott Los Angeles Airport Hotel.*

## MARRIOTT HONORS ITS PARTNERS AND STUDENTS

### FERNANDA PEREZ WINS YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Marriott Foundation held its annual Employer Recognition Reception this year on September 27 at the Marriott Los Angeles Airport Hotel. This year's Leadership Award went to Jeff Zarrillo, General Manager of the AMC Theatres, Burbank 16, for his constant support of Bridges participants at his theatre. The Employer of the Year award was accepted by Home Depot Center Human Resources Manager Kristen Turner and General Manager Katie Pandolfo, who have hired numerous participants this year. Last but not least, Fernanda Perez accepted the Youth Achievement Award.

After a warm welcome by Richard Marriott, remarks were given by Debra Duardo, Director of Pupil Services for

the Los Angeles Unified School District. Ms. Duardo shared her inspiring story of raising a child with a disability while balancing her professional career.

As always, the highlight of the night was the Youth Achievement Award acceptance speech, in which Fernanda thanked her family, Bridges, and Orchard Supply Hardware. She

thanked the Bridges program, "for allowing me to be a participant and for helping me find a job that I like and making sure that I was successful."

Special thanks go to the Los Angeles Marriott Business Council for graciously hosting the event and the Marriott Los Angeles Airport Hotel, who presented an impressive spread for our guests.



*ER Noe Valenzuela, 2012 Leadership Award recipient Jeff Zarrillo of AMC Burbank 16, and ER Fausto Mendez*

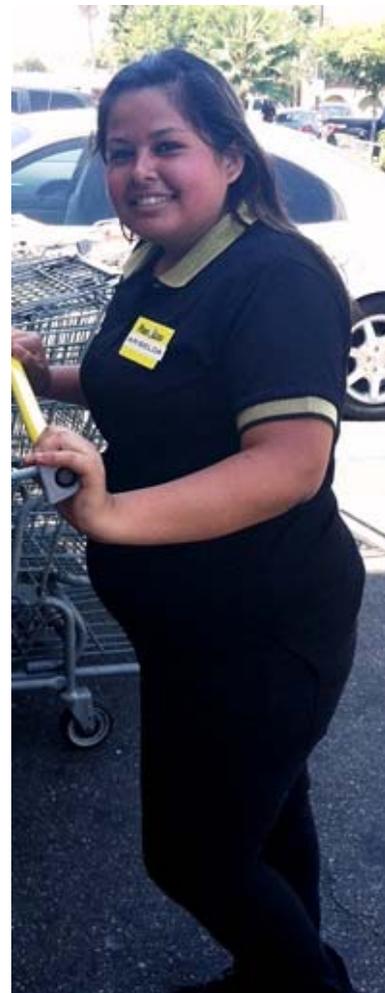
## ARISELDA ROJAS

*"I really love my job. I love to help Food 4 Less customers. My Bridges ER and the program have helped me a lot to learn new skills, to get work, and be successful on the job."*

*-- Bridges Participant, Ariselda Rojas*

Ariselda Rojas was recently hired by Food 4 Less in Lynwood as a Courtesy 1st Clerk. Ariselda's Employer Representative, Brianna Garner, had been working with her for several months, trying to help her find a job. Together, they applied to many positions, but none seemed to be quite the right fit. Ariselda's shyness was a challenge, and some interviewers told them they were unsure of her ability to handle a customer service position. Brianna worked with Ariselda intensively and after many hours of hard work, Ariselda began coming out of her shell.

Given Bridges' excellent relationship with Food 4 Less stores in Los Angeles, Brianna decided to have Ariselda apply for a position with the Food 4 Less location in Lynwood. Ariselda impressed the managers with her smile and attitude, and she was hired this past June. She is grateful to Food 4 Less for giving her the opportunity to shine.



## JONATHAN WILLIAMS

Jonathan Williams began his participation with the Bridges program in January of 2012. After attaining important skills through regular job readiness workshops with Senior ER Ivonne Silver, Jonathan received his Guard Card Certification and was hired by General Security Service, Inc. Job Coach Darin Garcia then began working with Jonathan on improving his communication skills. One day, Jonathan's honesty was put to the test when he accidentally received three government checks in the mail. He felt compelled to return the funds, and rightfully did so. Jonathan recently completed his tenth month on the job, and in January 2013, he will reach his one-year anniversary. Congratulations, Jonathan, on your success!