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A Plus

Por La Gente presents academic, athletic scholarships

By SK

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RACINE - Maria Valadez, daughter of Otoniel and Lydia Valadez of Racine is the recipient of the Por La Gente Academic Scholarship, and Maribel Cortez, daughter of Ana Murguia of Racine, is the recipient of the Por La Gente Athletic Scholarship.

Valadez is a 2002 graduate of Park High School. She has been on the honor roll every semester of her high school career. Valadez is very involved in both her school and her community. She participated in student government all four years. In addition, she was a member of the Panther Pom Pon squad.

Other school activities included leadership roles in D.A.R.E. and Just Say No. Outside of school, she volunteered her time at the Festival of Trees, YWCA, Latin Athletic Club activities, the Racine Zoo and Toys for Tots.

Valadez also helped students with homework at Westridge Elementary and gave companionship to the elderly at Lakeshore Manor Nursing Home.

Valadez will attend the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in the fall majoring in elementary education. She would like to become an elementary school teacher so that she can positively influence children.

Cortez is a 2002 graduate of Case High School. She has also been on the Honor Roll every semester of her high school year. She was a member of the National Honor Society that not only requires exceptional grades but also volunteer service hours in and out of school.

She worked with children who could neither read nor write English. Her help was invaluable. Cortez was a varsity member of the track, cross country and power lifting teams at Case.

She went to state several times and received the honor of being named captain of the track team.

Maribel will attend Monmouth College in Illinois majoring in occupational therapy. Graduate school is in the plans after college.

The Por La Gente Association raises money for these scholarships through its annual basketball and softball invitationals.

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