



# SOURCE

## Star of the Month

August 2021

**Stacey Gonzalez**  
School of Nursing



*Congratulations to our Star of the Month for August 2021, Stacey Gonzalez from the School of Nursing! Stacey completed the Community Outreach Program working with our partners at The Esperanza Center on their Spanish COVID Hotline team. Read more about her experience below!*

**Tell us a little bit about yourself. What degree program are you enrolled in? What brought you to Hopkins and the profession of nursing?**

I am originally from Los Angeles, California and I graduated from UCLA with a bachelor's in biology. I am about to finish my 3rd semester in the Nursing Master's Entry Program, and I am excited to start my 4th semester this Fall. I am interested in Pediatric Nursing and hoping to go back and work at the Children's Hospital back in LA.

**How did you become involved with the Esperanza Center here in Baltimore? Can you tell us a little bit about the work you were doing?**

I started working with the Esperanza Center through the COP program with Source. I chose to work with the Esperanza Center because I liked their mission of helping the undocumented community and they offer lots of resources and aid. I was part of the Spanish COVID Hotline team, and we supported the callers by providing monetary aid, scheduling COVID tests (at no cost), and scheduling COVID vaccines at the Sagrado de Corazon Jesus church.

**What has your experience been like connecting with community members during the pandemic?**

It was a difficult transition to move to Baltimore during the pandemic and it was challenging to connect with classmates and community members. However, working with the Esperanza Center provided me with a sense of community. It was a very rewarding experience and many of our callers were able to have access to the vaccine in a local community center. Many of our callers are undocumented therefore it was important for the clinic to provide a vaccine clinic where our patients felt safe.

**How does your community work complement what you've been learning in the classroom at the School of Nursing?**

My community work complemented my education as I provided patient education about the COVID vaccine to our Hotline callers. Most of the callers only speak Spanish and rely on the media for information of current events such as the pandemic and the vaccine.

**What advice would you give to other students looking to get involved in service-learning?**

I would tell other students that it is a very rewarding experience, and it is a good way to get involved with the community especially if you are not from Baltimore. I also found that 4 hours a week work perfectly with my school schedule.