



### **VINA DANKS STUDENTS ATTEND FOURTH ANNUAL EDUCATING THE HEART DINNER**

Beverly Hills, Calif. – On Thursday, April 15, 2004, a handful of students and staff from Vina Danks Middle School attended the Fourth Annual Educating the Heart Dinner at the Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Melissa Osuna, Juana Soto, Angelica Paz, Berlin Barrantes, and Goretty Banuelos were selected to represent Vina Danks at the annual awards banquet because they have contributed significantly to honoring the legacy of Cesar E. Chavez. The students participated in a Service-Learning project at the National Chavez Center in 2003. The project involved learning about Cesar's life, work, and ideals, as well as beautifying the Center's garden-area. The students gathered rocks for the planters and pulled weeds.



Other Vina Danks students and staff present at the Fourth Annual Educating the Heart Dinner were Jeanette Troesh, Mark Lim, le May Lim, Ms. Pederson, George Lira, Diana Ontiveros, and Kayla Villela and her mother Mona Guardarrama.

Kayla, a 14-year-old Vina Danks alumnus, presented Ed Begley, Jr. with a Cesar E. Chavez Legacy award alongside David Damien Figueroa. Kayla is featured in "Arms Wide Open", a Vina Danks mural promoting the legacy of Cesar E. Chavez and the importance of becoming a contributing member of society. Kayla is featured in the mural because she is a survivor, a role model, and a symbol of strength. She is battling a form of cancer that rarely strikes children her age.