

# Rodrigo U. Vista Bay Graduate 2003

## *Saving Lives in our Community*

**VISTA BAY STUDENTS  
VERY OFTEN SHARE  
THEIR STORIES SO  
THAT OTHERS LIKE  
THEM CAN WITNESS  
AND EVENTUALLY  
EXPERIENCE THE SAME  
LIFE-CHANGING WINS  
FROM THE INCREDIBLE  
AND EMPOWERING  
VISTA BAY PROGRAM**

**THE WORDS TO THE  
RIGHT ARE THE WORDS  
OF ACTUAL STUDENTS  
AND GRADUATES OF  
THE VISTA BAY  
PROGRAM, WHO NOT  
LONG AGO FELT  
HOPELESSLY ADDICTED  
TO DRUGS OR  
ALCOHOL.**

**If you are losing a loved one  
to drugs or alcohol, please  
call: [1-800-556-8885](tel:1-800-556-8885) and  
find out more about the  
Vista Bay Program.**



Rigo moved from Peru to Berkeley with his Mother and older sister at the age of nine to get away from his cocaine dealing, abusive Father. The language barrier and lack of positive influences led him into a negative crowd. By ninth grade he was suspended from High School for gang activity. He picked up Crystal Meth at 15 and continued on the downward spiral of addiction. Between robbing and mugging individuals he ended up in juvenile housing and finally boot camp. His brother found Vista Bay when Rigo was 18 years old and continuing down a dangerous path leading to death and incarceration. At first Rigo was not interested in getting help but after a comprehensive program he successfully completed the program in July of 2003. He went back home to Berkeley to work and remained sober. He recently decided he wanted to give back and help other kids by giving bilingual drug education lectures to the local community. Rigo joined our staff early May and is getting the training to go along with his charismatic personality for local drug prevention. We are very proud of Rigo, as he recently received an official Congressional Certificate of Recognition by Sam Farr for his dedicated work.