

2014 Thanks For Caring Award WINNER 2014

Miguel Alban

157 Old Kennett Road, Kennett Square, PA19348

267-253-5415

malban@avantiseguros.com

NOMINATORS: The Garage Community & Youth Center (Kristin Proto & Sarah Daniels)

122 Rosehill Avenue, West Grove, PA 19390

610 869-4400

Kristin.proto@garageyouthcenter.org

sarah.daniels@garageyouthcenter.org

It is without hesitation that the Garage Community & Youth Center nominates Miguel Alban for the 2014 Thanks For Caring Award.

Miguel Alban is worthy of recognition for his outstanding commitment to philanthropy not only at the Garage Community & Youth Center, but also within his neighborhood and the community at large.

Since coming to the U.S. in 2005, Miguel has been instrumental in bridging the gap between the American and Hispanic communities through his professional career, acts of service and philanthropic giving.

When Miguel arrived in the U.S., he didn't speak a word of English. Determined to embrace all that America had to offer, he immediately started bagging groceries at a supermarket and worked as a sales clerk at CVS. Within 4 months he learned the English language. He soon earned a Master's Degree in international law from Temple University.

Miguel started at the bottom and has diligently earned his way up the professional ladder.

Miguel first worked at MacElree Harvey, and then First National Bank of Chester County, and then onto the Elite Group. He is currently the Vice President of Avanti Seguros, and the founding owner of Hispanic Approach, LLC. He is also a licensed real estate agent with Berkshire Hathaway.

Miguel has seen first hand that obtaining basic services can be difficult for the Latino community. In all of his professional and voluntary endeavors, Miguel works to provide bilingual and bicultural services to the Hispanic community by educating them on how to shop for the best rates, avoid scams, deal with immigration, etc. In these roles he serves his community by not only donating money, but also by educating others on how to be better stewards of their finances. Most recently Miguel helped a local Mexican business owner refinance a high interest loan, enabling him to save a significant amount of money.

When clients are unable to pay for service, Miguel doesn't hesitate to offer services for free. He recently took time to meet with a teen Mom in our YoungMoms program to help her navigate the real estate market to ensure she did not enter into a mortgage she could not afford. On the reversed side, Miguel also works closely with American companies and individuals to help them better reach the Latino community by providing education and translation services. He faithfully serves as an advocate, informing colleagues about opportunities to partner and invest in local nonprofits. Miguel is providing more than a service, he is breaking down cultural barriers and bridging cultural and relational gaps that will have a lasting impact on generations to come. Since 2010, Miguel has served on the Board of Directors of La Comunidad, and most recently joined the Board of Directors for the Southern Chester County Chamber of Commerce. He serves as a mentor for a young teen who recently immigrated to the US, voluntarily provides workshops through SCORE on how to succeed as a Latino Business Owner, and most recently began volunteering for the Garage Community & Youth Center.

At the Garage, Miguel is more than just a donor. He serves in an advisory role to help the organization better serve the Latino community, which makes up over 55% of our clientele. He serves on our events committees for our community banquets to coordinate donations, brought a total of 14 new donors to our West Grove and Kennett Square banquets, and volunteered for our Holiday Auction by donating a private Peruvian dinner in his home (which helped raise an additional \$2,000) and served as the live auctioneer. His promotion and participation in our Holiday Auction was a critical asset in helping us increase our revenue by 150% from the previous year.

Miguel's philanthropic leadership is not only inspiring, but also motivating. His leadership has been pivotal in educating and empowering other local Latino business owners to give back to the community. Since Miguel's involvement with the Garage, more than 10 local Latino business owners have come forward to make contributions to the Garage both monetary and via in-kind donations. John Featherman, a local community leader and philanthropist, describes Miguel as a bright hardworking man who cares about his family, clients and the community. He produces great results in his business life while maintaining a high level of personal integrity."

Whether you know Miguel personally or professionally, you know him as caring, loyal and generous. He knows what it's like to be without and selflessly gives back to others. Despite being nations apart, Miguel sends money to his native Peru to help his mother and autistic brother. He is a common face you'll see at almost every local fundraiser and community event, always eager to learn about what's going on in the community and how he and his family can help.