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## From Fashion Design To Crafting Young Talent

By Giselle Chollett

Elizabeth Gomez is a native Colombian who has lived in Jackson Heights for the last 11 years.

She studied fashion design in California and established her own designing business. She then expanded her company, Elizabeth Gomez Productions, to promote talented children.

But her endeavors haven't stopped there. Gomez is very aware that once she started designing clothes for so many people that other opportunities would arise from the contacts she made.

That is why she created a group of talented child performers – under the same name as her company – that sing, dance and make presentations for hospital and senior center benefits.

"I do not charge anything to promote or help these kids because my payment is when they and their parents show me their happiness and their encouragement to continue doing this," Gomez said with much satisfaction.

Gomez explained that she decided to do this because, "I have seen a lot of people with talent that haven't been recognized or that have found other people that ask them for too much money to make their dreams come true."

Gomez also thinks outside the box in her designing company. Besides clothes for people, Gomez also designs clothes for dogs, because, as she says simply, "what I most like is to design."

Additionally, Gomez is launching a magazine soon with the goal of promoting Hispanic talent in New York.

"This will not be a gossip magazine, but a space where you will find profiles of people who have aspirations to become a star," Gomez said. "Those will also be combined with stories of well-known people from show business, and that will catch the attention of the readers."

New doors are opening for Gomez because she keeps in constant contact with producers of television programs on Telemundo and Univision, who frequently ask Gomez for her support when they need kids to assist on shows such as "Sabado Gigante" and "Despierta America," for example.

Gomez expects to continue working with the kids and try to find people with more skills so she can support them and even find financial help for them.

In that sense, Gomez is always keeping her options open for diverse opportunities that will enable her to expand her company even more.

The biggest inspiration for Gomez so far was meeting fashion designer Oscar de la Renta, who shared his fervent wish of helping people that need it the most. "Things haven't been easy for me, but I will continue to work hard for them and get this done," Gomez concludes.

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THE QUEENS COURIER/ Photo by John Caballero

Elizabeth Gomez: "The children of the group are my family."

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**Elizabeth Gomez**