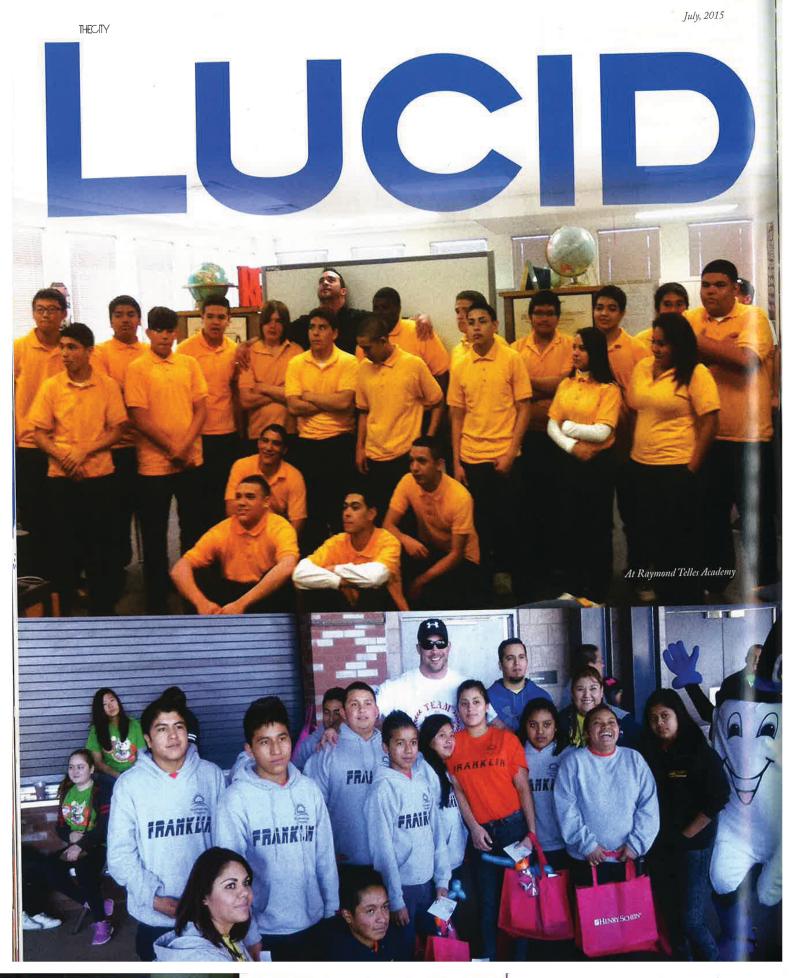
## EL PASO/LAS CRUCES MAGAZINE



| By: ECTOR ACOSTA |

ey say that there is nothing nore beautiful, stronger, or more fierce than a mother's love. No mother wants to see their child suffer when you have such high hopes and dreams for their future. This was the case with one El Paso mother who lost her 17-yearold son to suicide. Veronica Cabada is ready to speak out so that no parent experiences the heartbreak that she has felt since her son, Sebastian Cabada, passed away. The cause of death was written as "undetermined" but his loved ones, and anyone who witnessed his struggle, will tell you that the serious issue that led up to Sebastian's death was bullying. Sebastian was endearing towards his friends and family with his gentle ways and is remembered for his compassion towards others, "He was a humanitarian in his own way," his mother, Veronica Cabada said, "He respected diversity, which means no matter how you dressed, how you looked, how you talked, he loved you for who you were." Veronica was left in tears at an antibullying presentation when a young man stood up and said, "I knew Sebastian, he was a great person." Veronica is now using her pain to help bring about change and to spread love, understanding and awareness for youth that are being bullied. Sebastian endured bullying since childhood and left this world on May 3, 2013.

son be forgotten, Veronica fought to make things right and formed Lucid Love - an www.the city magazine elp.com

a safe haven. People often forget that kindness is free. Whether you are a part of Lucid Love or not you can be the shining light in others' lives. It only takes one to make a difference. We all have our own uniqueness, special talents and abilities that empower us to help those around us and set an example for others to follow. A champion doesn't just become a star overnight; he practices repeatedly in order to reach success. Time and patience are the keys to soaring high.

One man who can surely tell you this from experience is a man who stands at six feet four inches. This friendly giant is a decorated heavyweight boxer who towers over his nickname. David "El Nino" Rodriguez is one of the best boxers in the world in his weight class and the "Chuco's Champ" resides right here in the Sun City. The people's champion has made it clear that he is here to stay and help his people. On March 12, 1998, David Rodriguez put on his gloves and faced his opponent, James Martin, at the Sheraton Hotel in Houston, Texas. The shining lights and crowd of fans was something new to Rodriguez but his focus was on victory and sure enough he TKO'ed Martin in the first round and immediately knew that this was what he wanted to do for the rest of his life. El Nino went on to claim nearly 40 impressive victories but if you talk to him today he will tell you that he is fighting a different battle. El Nino has taken a hiatus Refusing to let the hardships befallen her from professional boxing to fight against a seemingly unstoppable force: bullying.

organization that promotes self-love and Rodriguez didn't think twice about joining respect for others — to give young ones. Lucid Love and now speaks on his life





experiences, starting with his years as a youngster and leading up to his years as a professional fighter. Throughout his life he has encountered various forms of bullying and his plan is to build up others who are going through similar struggles. Rodriguez wouldn't agree that this was well planned out. On the contrary, "Lucid Love" found him at the perfect time. Following an injury that Rodriguez suffered in 2012, the boxer was left emotionally and physically beat. He couldn't even run a mile and felt a "loss of identity" in his efforts to march forward. That's when the unexpected happened and his life took a turn for the better. Sal Montelongo, a humanitarian, and the director of Lucid Love, saw the champion in the gym one day and immediately felt within his heart the need to approach him. Prior to working for Lucid Love, Montelongo was a decorated athlete. But like Rodriguez, he too, had battled his own demons. Montelongo's passion for Lucid Love has not only been transparent but evidently it has been contagious as well. Rodriguez now holds a basketball camp and wants to help one child at a time to focus on all of their unique needs. His advice to young ones is: "Empower yourself with knowledge of one's self and know what you're worth so no one can bring you down." He was just the friend that the champion needed at his darkest hour. The director's drive to inspire the youth touched the fighter's heart and

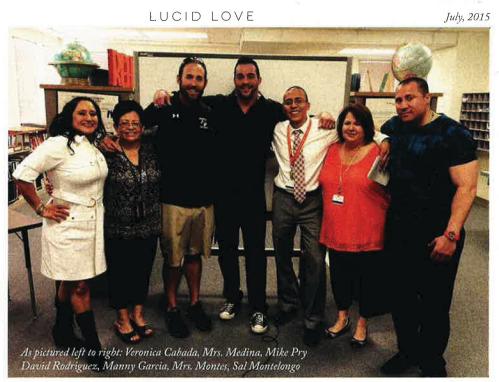
The group endeavor blossomed sooner than expected. Little did Veronica Cabada know that the latest cloud was about to

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have a silver lining. This woman, who truly defines the word 'survivor', is a dedicated philanthropist whose intelligence has no boundaries. She has a double degree in Finance/Management from the University of Texas at El Paso. Cabada has been working for a Fortune 100 company for over twentythree years in upper management and has earned countless awards. She is a mother of three, Johann Sebastian, Angeles Europa and Luis Enrique Cabada. "Lucid Love was established to carry on my son's work and render help to the victims. We will teach the victims how to unleash the power buried in the depths of their heart, to help them forgive and find peace and happiness. Love and faith is the foundation of our work." Destiny paved a way for the trio to unite and now they have expanded beyond what they imagined possible.

As soon as all the members put their chips in, Lucid Love swiftly took off, Within weeks big things were happening. Montelongo arranged for El Nino to give presentations, resulting in a turning point in the boxer's life. El Nino felt a breakthrough and found his calling in giving speeches to the troubled youth. It was helping him. He found an inner peace from sharing his story with others. He expressed to Montelongo and Cabado that he "felt more energy and beyond positive." The collective team effort valued David Rodriguez as the "perfect ingredient." Now, they have branched out all over the city and made it a global approach. The non-profit organization, that is funded by contributions, stands on a rock solid foundation. The organization is as colorful as they get. Proceeds are used for the following but not limited to: youth basketball camps, boxing camps, health fairs, seminars, heath coaching, etc. Now even more public figures have joined the organization. Famous actress "Ara Celi" who hails from El Paso is now on the scene. Lucid Love is here to help. Bullying is not okay. Period. You're not alone ... OPEN UP! "POWER TO THE VICTIM"

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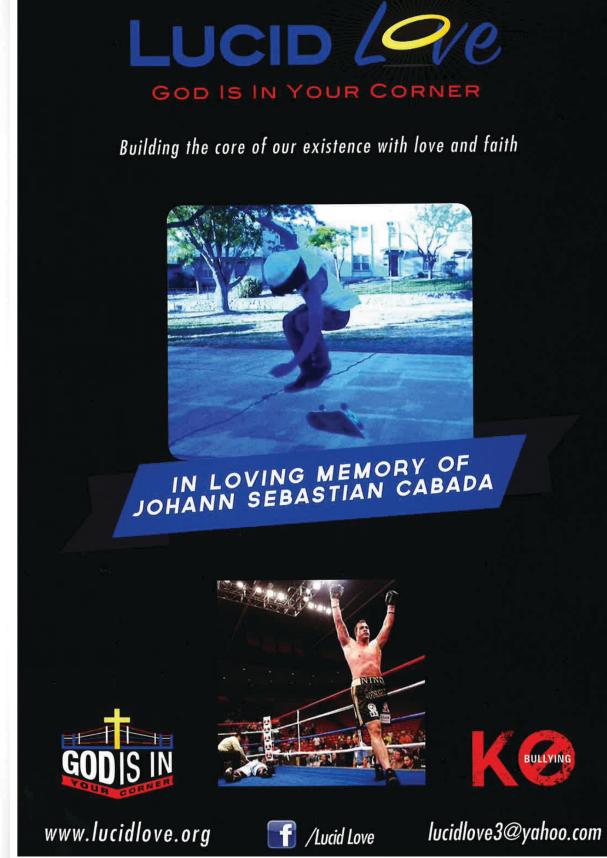












encouraged him to do the same.