



"I have learned that I can look at things in my house and fix them myself. A couple of weeks ago I fixed my bedroom door. It was hard to open, always sticking. I just planed down the side until it opened smoothly."

The value of practical knowledge is emphasized in this workshop, especially because the educational alternatives available in the local public schools are so dismal. Many of Green's students attend William Howard Taft High School, which is regarded as one of the worst in New York City. Only 30 percent of the students graduate in four years, and the suspension rate is three times higher than average. Gangs, drugs, and weapons are an unpleasant reality. For many, the time spent at *Rocking the Boat* could easily be spent in a more unproductive ways.

"If I wasn't here, I'd just be out on the street chillin', wasting my time. There's nothing much to do on the block except get in trouble, and I was tired of always seeing the same bad things happen", said Craig Salazar, 17, who found out about *Rocking the Boat* through his sister, a former volunteer.

Meliza Pena, 17, is a senior at Taft and the apprentice at *Rocking the Boat*. She helps Green supervise the



"I wasn't even really thinking about college until I met Adam. Now I definitely want to go to college and hopefully study law and ecology. I'd like to be a congresswoman. Adam has always said that education comes first."

Meliza Pena, 17

Rocking the Boat is always open to donations of any size supporting their worthwhile endeavor. Contact directly Adam Green at 718-466-5799 or email him at greenad@earthlink.net

