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KRCB-FM "Voice of Youth" Essayist Airs on National Public Radio

Santa Rosa, Calif. (May 4, 2006) -- Elvia Bautista, a participant in KRCB-FM's *Voice of Youth* program, will be featured Monday, May 8 on the *National Public Radio (NPR)* segment "This I Believe". Aired Mondays during *Morning Edition*®, "This I Believe" is a national project that invites Americans from all walks of life to share brief essays describing the core values and beliefs that guide their lives. The show, based on the popular 1950s radio series of the same name, seeks to encourage deeper, more reflective conversations among the American public beyond the current flood of spin and bites. Bautista's writing will be available for reading and listening at www.krcb.org following its debut on NPR.



Bautista is the first broadcast essayist from Santa Rosa. Chosen from among more than 11,000 submitted to the series, her composition was inspired by a March 2005 *Voice of Youth* segment about the life and death of her younger brother who was gunned down December 31, 2004, allegedly by rival gang members. "I am Rogelio Bautista" was written by four teens from his neighborhood in southwest Santa Rosa. Elvia Bautista was moved by the program, and called *Voice of Youth* Producer Tatiana Harrison for more information. A friendship developed, and Harrison later encouraged Bautista to write and submit an essay to NPR.

Written and produced by Sonoma County teens, KRCB-FM's *Voice of Youth* trains students in the art of radio: interviewing, writing, editing and interpretation. The two-year-old show has received national attention with this honor being the most recent. *Voice of Youth* garnered a Special Merit Award from the National Federation of Community Broadcasters in 2005. Ms Bautista has been with the program since March 2005.

"*Voice of Youth* provides an out for teens stuck in the 'black hole' of gang-dominated cultures," says Harrison. "Sharing journalistic values helps raise their consciousness and means of expression."

Beyond *Voice of Youth's* mission "to create a team of teen correspondents who can write and produce radio of undeniable clarity and unflinching authenticity ...", Harrison introduces teens to journalistic concepts learned during her four-year tenure as stringer (a type of independent field correspondent) in Peru. "You must extrapolate the essence of your world to the outside universe," she says. "Every side of the story has a point of view just as real as the others."

At the conclusion of each "This I Believe" segment, host Jay Allison asks listeners to submit their own essays for possible future broadcast on NPR. The best writings received from listeners as well as those commissioned from prominent Americans air on *Morning Edition*® or *All Things Considered*®, and appear on www.npr.org. The site includes text and audio from the new series and photographs of essayists taken by noted photographer Nubar Alexanian. The site also allows visitors a chance to explore essays from Edward R. Murrow's original 1950s series via an extensive archive of text, audio and photographs. "This I Believe" has run on KRCB-FM 91.1 (Comcast Digital Cable Channel 961), the Sonoma County NPR affiliate, since April 2005.

Bautista joins a list of everyday folks and luminaries. 2005-06 commissioned essayists (aired) include author Isabel Allende, commentator William F. Buckley Jr., former Secretary of State Warren Christopher, legendary radio writer Norman Corwin, playwright Eve Ensler, head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Dr. Anthony Fauci, journalist John Fountain, Microsoft founder Bill Gates, politician Newt Gingrich, psychologist Kay Redfield Jamison, magician Penn Jillette, Dean of the Yale Law School Harold Koh, astrophysicist Alan Lightman, Senator John McCain, director Errol Morris, politician and civil rights activist Cecilia Munoz, University of Virginia professor Gregory Orr, youth organizer Eboo Patel, former Secretary of State Colin Powell, writer and activist Gloria Steinem, author and radio broadcast personality Studs Terkel, and Nobel laureate Jody Williams.

Elvia Bautista's "This I Believe" essay opens with tremendous poignancy: "I believe that everyone deserves flowers on their grave. When I go to the cemetery to visit my brother, it makes me sad to see graves [with] just the cold stones and no flowers on them. They look lonely, like nobody loves them. I believe this is the worst thing in the world -- that loneliness. ... A grave without any flowers looks like the person has been forgotten. And then what was the point of even living ... to be forgotten?"

According to published reports, *Morning Edition*® is the number one morning radio news show in all U.S. radio with more than 13 million listeners weekly.

KRCB-TV and FM 91 (www.krcb.org) is the PBS and NPR station serving the North and East Bay areas of the San Francisco Bay region. It provides educational, informational and cultural telecommunication services in partnership with the community by broadcasting the best of noncommercial programming available from national and international sources as well as its own productions. Working with non-profit and government organizations, the station expands the impact of programming by initiating community dialog on important issues, thus encouraging the civic engagement of all citizens. KRCB-TV earned a National Telly Award for its "Natural Heroes".

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