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5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
"Columba Bush and her Inspiration"  
443 words

## *Columba Bush and her Inspiration*

Columba Bush is the wife of Jeb Bush, previous governor of the State of Florida and potential presidential candidate. She was born in a poor town in Mexico named Leon. She met her husband when she was 16-years-old and he was teaching English and helping to build a school in the community. Columba married into a rich and political family, even though she isn't interested in politics. She is quoted as saying, "I did not ask to join a famous family. I simply wanted to marry the man I loved." (1) While Jeb Bush was Governor, Columba was not involved in politics directly but worked on many important issues that have made an impact on the state of Florida.

Pablo Picasso once said "Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up." Columba Bush believes that children should unleash their creativity in different ways and continue art education throughout their lives. That's why she started the "Arts for Life" program so she could reward students with scholarships for their accomplishments in dance, music, drama, and art. Many of the students that received these scholarships have become professional dancers, musicians, actresses and artists. These professionals now inspire younger children. The children of the state of Florida benefit from their creativity and their inspiration.

Columba Bush is also focused on her family and wants to create strong families throughout Florida. Columba is against domestic violence, which is why she works with the Coalition against Domestic Violence. Her dad used to hit Columba's mom, Josefina Gallo Esquivel, and eventually they divorced. Her difficult relationship with her father is one of the reasons that she is working to prevent violence in homes.

Columba Bush is also against substance abuse and works with the Center on Addiction and Substance. Two of her children were arrested because of substance abuse. In her advocacy, Columba has worked with organizations that highlight the "heartache and destruction" caused by teenage drug addiction.(1) That is why she tries to keep others from addiction.

The state of Florida has been shaped by her efforts to strengthen families and prevent drug and alcohol abuse. Her efforts have also shaped the future of the children of Florida and art education. If Jeb Bush becomes president, it is likely that Columba will proceed with these efforts at the national level. If Columba becomes the first lady, she will be the first Hispanic to

be in that position. As there is a large Hispanic population in the United States, her position could inspire them to become what they want. She is proof that it doesn't matter where you come from, one can always make a difference in other people's lives.

Works Cited:

- (1) <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2015/06/the-mysterious-columba-bush/392090/>
- (2) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Columba\\_Bush](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Columba_Bush)
- (3) <http://artsforlifeaward.org/wordpress/mrscolumbabush/>
- (4) <http://artsforlifeaward.org/wordpress/governor-jeb-bush-and-columba-bush-honor-arts-for-life-florida-scholarship-winners/>
- (5) <http://www.floridahispanicheritage.com/leaders.cfm?lang=en>