

THE PROMISE



MISSION PROMISE
COMUNIDAD PROMESA DE LA MISION
NEIGHBORHOOD



Glenda y Alexa at Daniel Webster Elementary School.

MY POWER AS A MOTHER

MPN's Transitions Family Portfolio is a tool for families that are transitioning from PreK to TK/Kindergarten. The biggest goal is for families to build strong relationships with their child's TK/Kindergarten teachers, by communicating and advocating for their child.

How do you use the Family Portfolio with Alexa's teacher?

We use it every day, inside and outside of school. This gives us many ideas on how to communicate with students, teachers and parents. For example, since the first day of orientation at my daughter Alexa's school, I was prepared to ask many questions such as, "What time they take lunch?" or "How many breaks do they have in the day?" or "Where are the bathrooms?" On the first day of Alexa's school, we arrived very early to try to meet her teacher. However, our experience was not what we expected, her teacher was very busy but I didn't give up. Every time I picked up my daughter, I introduced myself to the teacher until I managed to give her all the information about Alexa. It was important that Alexa felt the connection and good communication I have with her teacher.

How was your experience when your children entered Kindergarten and how was your relationship with the teacher?

The experience I had with my oldest son and with my daughter were different. My son arrived in this country when he turned age 5; therefore, he did not attend a preschool. Junior went straight to Kinder and both of us were not prepared. It was a very difficult road to start but with much effort he was able to overcome it. With my daughter, I have participated in many informative workshops regarding how to prepare with transitions. One of the workshops was about the Family Portfolio. Mostly I remember that my son would cry when leaving in the classroom. In the other hand, my daughter seems very confident of herself and her behavior.

MPN's model is to harness the power of our community so every family succeeds and every student has the opportunity and tools to go to college.



Maria receiving her Student of the Month Award with Principal Ryan and Mr. Vaez.

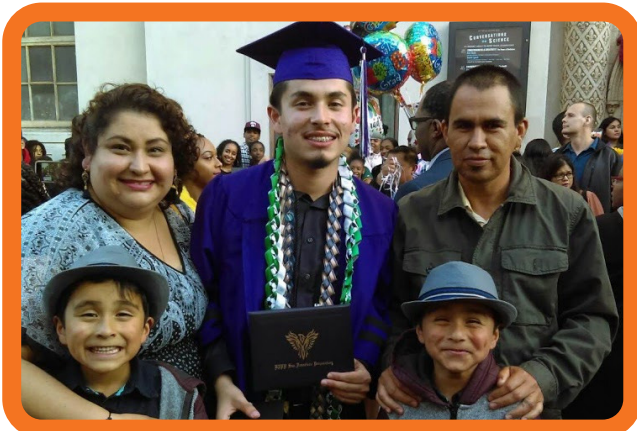
ONE DAY AT A TIME

My father had received numerous calls from John O'Connell High School about my poor attendance. These calls continued for a month. The counseling team and support staff at John O'Connell kept on calling him because they were worried about me. The team was worried that if I continued to miss school, I would not have enough credits to graduate high school.

I was not aware that Mr. Wolfgram, Counselor, and Family Success and Transitions Coach Flor Armas had set up a home visit. When they stopped by, it was a surprise. I explained to them both that it's not that I didn't want to go to school: I was just nervous. I hadn't been to school for such a long time. I didn't know what to expect, plus I was helping with house chores because my mom and dad both worked night shifts. I explained my situation to them both, and they understood.

Flor offered to walk with me to school to ease my anxiety, which was very helpful. After a couple of weeks of her picking me up, I was able to go to school on my own. I also appreciate Mr. Wolfgram explaining the consequences of not attending school regularly. When I heard them, it was scary, but it did help to warn me about the effects of missing school.

I am still struggling a bit with my attendance, but I feel better about attending school. I sometimes worry that my grades might drop if I don't keep coming to school. I have realized that there is a relationship between attendance and grades.



Erika, William and their family at William's 2018 high school graduation.

CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF GOOD SAM

San Francisco is home to one of the nation's oldest, continuously operating immigrant organizations: The Good Samaritan Family Resource Center. It opened its doors in 1894 with a simple, heartfelt mission: to help immigrants living and struggling in San Francisco build a better future.

Headquartered for much of its 125 years in the Mission neighborhood, "Good Sam" as it is widely known, has partnered with tens of thousands of local immigrants, welcoming entire families into its wrap-around services, support groups, and parenting circles.

One such parent is Erika Delgadillo, who came to the U.S. from Mexico at age 18. She says that 16 years ago, "I was a new mom, I didn't speak English very well, and I was in a very problematic romantic relationship."

A nurse at General Hospital noticed during an appointment that Erika and her son were withdrawn. She gently encouraged them to go to Good Sam, a couple of blocks away. "I remember her telling me: go to Good Sam. There you will find people who will help you feel more hopeful. They work with immigrants who want to see their children succeed."

Erika, took the advice and walked to Good Sam, where a bilingual intake worker encouraged her to come to a support group for Spanish-speaking moms with toddlers. Within a year, Erika's peers in the program became her biggest supporters, encouraging her as she made plans to leave her then-husband and take William, then age 3, with her.

Erika was thrilled when a spot opened in Good Sam's dual-language/low-cost preschool, because not only would William learn to love learning, but she could go work while he was there. And Erika did just that.

Today, William is in his second year of college, and Erika remarried a few years back, adding twin boys to the family.

But the story doesn't end there.

Erika, who now works at Good Sam, is proud to announce: "MEDA and Chinatown CDC, joint developers of Casa Adelante - 2060 Folsom, a new 124-unit affordable housing complex, have asked Good Samaritan to open a preschool on the ground floor."

To celebrate Good Samaritan's longtime partnership with Mission Promise Neighborhood, Mario Paz, Executive Director, recently provided MEDA/MPN with an award. He says: "MPN is proving that Latino excellence is possible and probable when we invest in our young as early as possible. We are proud to be increasing the number, quality, and affordability of early education programs for the Latino community. Collectively, MPN member organizations are fighting hard for Latino children's futures."

Here is a **One-Page Overview** about Good Samaritan's campaign to fund its second preschool in the neighborhood. We look forward to seeing the 48-student preschool when it opens its doors in early 2021.



THE PROMISE COMMITTEE

From left: Alejandro, Ana, Pedro, Mariana, Liz, Dannhae, and Flor. Our mission is to share accomplishments and stories by students, families and partner organizations that are part of our network. The Promise Newsletter will be published quarterly, so the next one will be on January, 2020. If you have an idea or would like to share your story, contact Alejandro at (415) 282-3334 ext. 126 or abautista@medasf.org.