

THE PROMISE



MISSION PROMISE
COMUNIDAD PROMESA DE LA MISION
NEIGHBORHOOD



Janeth and her daughters, Rubi and Shantel.

A MOTHER'S EXPERIENCE DURING COVID-19

My name is Janeth and I am from Honduras. I came to the United States seeking better opportunities; unfortunately, due to circumstances out of my control I have been living in a shelter with my children.

I learned about MEDA through someone at the shelter. That's where I met Dannhae Herrera-Wilson and learned about Mission Promise Neighborhood. Family Success Coach Dannhae assisted me in looking for preschools for my 3-year-old and meeting with a counselor at Children's Council. She also connected me to Doulas Telar, a Spanish-speaking group of women from the community to assist me during the birth of my baby.

Unfortunately, because of Covid19, the doctors at SF General Hospital told me that I couldn't bring a doula and that my 3-year-old could not be with me at the hospital either. I ended up asking another mom at the shelter to look after my daughter. It was a very stressful and traumatic situation for my family.

While at the shelter, Dannhae and I continued communicating. Soon after my baby was born on April 14, Dannhae called me to give me the good news that I was one of the lucky recipients of MPN's first disbursement of the Family Relief Fund. This money could not have come at a better time, as it helped pay for my phone bill and other necessities, plus send money to my older son who stayed behind in Honduras.

I am very grateful to all the people and organizations that have helped me during these very challenging times. Despite COVID-19, my dreams and aspirations to provide for my children in the future have not stopped. I am still determined to keep going forward, learning and growing even in times of the pandemic.



Jeffry with his new laptop.

DISTANCE LEARNING WITH JEFFRY

Jeffry just started the 10th grade at Lincoln High School. He met Family Success Coach Roberto Aparicio when he was attending Everett Middle School, and since then they have kept in communication even after his graduation.

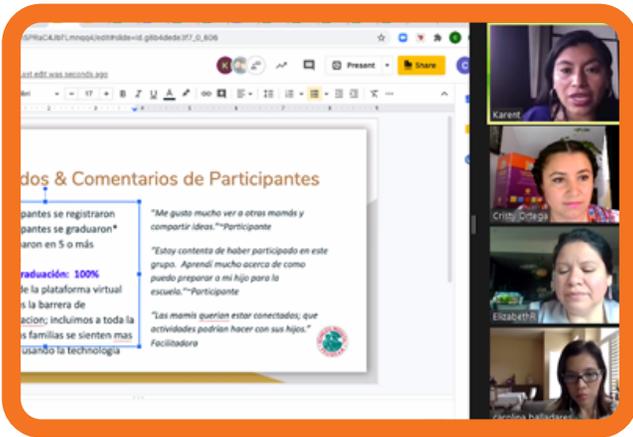
Jeffry shared his experience and thoughts on distance learning with us, stating that when shelter-in-place started in the 9th grade, it was very difficult for him. He neither had a computer nor WiFi at home to be able to connect and take his classes. Jeffrey shared this with his counselor, Tom Hostetler, who told him he had to go to the district in order to get a laptop. When Jeffry did so, he was surprised to learn that they no longer had any more available; therefore, he continued his search at various schools until, after almost 6 weeks, Jeffry found a computer at MPN school, Cesar Chavez Elementary.

With the computer in hand, he still lacked internet access. He mentioned this to Mr. Hostetler, and it took almost 3 weeks before he was finally able to have access. His teachers noticed that he was not attending his classes. These concerned teachers would call Jeffrey's parents, mentioning that if he did not connect, he was at risk of repeating a year.

Once having access to a computer and internet, Mr. Hostetler was able to help Jeffrey talk to his teachers so that they would let him submit the missed assignments.

Jeffry is very grateful to have such a good counselor who cared and helped him throughout the process. He knows that not all students have the same luck.

Jeffry misses his peers and the in-person interaction. He currently takes three classes a day on Zoom, and while it sometimes is difficult to focus, he is glad to be engaged in his classes once again.



Karent, Cristy, Elizabeth and Carolina;
Opening Doors (Abriendo Puertas) Facilitators

NECESSITY IS THE MOTHER OF INVENTION

Due to the pandemic, HPP had to suspend its in-person programming. Carolina, Cristy, Elizabeth and Karent noticed the great need to continue sharing Opening Doors classes with families and decided to do so in a virtual format. For them this was something innovative and completely new.

After consulting with parents, they realized that the best platform to share information was Zoom. HPP provided the necessary tools and training for them to virtually continue with the classes. Thanks to a donation from Hewlett-Packard and existing funding from MPN, they were able to donate a laptop and backpack, teeming with learning materials and toys, to families with children 0-5 years old.

When classes started being offered virtually, the staff was very transparent with families and communicated that this was going to be something new for everyone and that their children would always be a priority. This allowed them to create a healthy, trusting and safe space for all.

They started learning about what works in this virtual environment and noticed that they were being welcomed into families' homes. They also welcomed all members at home to join the classes. This helped them create a deeper connection with the whole family. The classes helped many parents lose their fear of technology, and some even requested more resources and virtual classes.

Thanks to their commitment and hard work, in this last cohort, they were able to maintain participation and this ensured that

100% of the participants graduated from the program. The weekly classes grew to 14 to 15 participants. They are now planning to open classes to up to 22 participants. This great effort was recognized by the Opening Doors National Organization, and they were invited to share all their work and achievements with the rest of the members on a national platform. Carolina, Cristy, Elizabeth and Karent are very grateful for this recognition and more than happy to share their learning with other facilitators of the program.

One of HPP's goals in 2020 was to increase the number of families that graduate from the program. The numbers below reflect the increase in graduation every year.

2018 - 30%

2019 - 35%

2020 - 60%

Congratulations HPP for this achievement!



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 Fall, 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.