

# THE PROMISE



MISSION PROMISE  
COMUNIDAD PROMESA DE LA MISION  
NEIGHBORHOOD



Sanchez Elementary School

## A NEW START AND A NEW PLACE TO CALL HOME

Diana and her children, Chelsea and Lean, have finally found stable housing. In 2019 they moved to the City of San Francisco, where unfortunately they did not have much and had to start over again.

Chelsea was enrolled in Sanchez Elementary School, and it was at this school that Diana met Pedro Tuyub who is a Family Success Coach with Mission Promise Neighborhood. Mr. Tuyub began to guide Diana and help her in whatever she needed. Diana informed him that they did not have a home and were currently staying in a shelter. After a few months of looking for help, Diana was able to obtain a subsidy but at the time of presenting it to the housing authorities, they denied it due to the fact that she exceeded the age limit that the subsidy benefited.

After about two years with the help of Mr. Tuyub, SF SHS and Rising UP, she received a housing subsidy to help with the rent. Now she is very happy in her new home with her children and is very grateful for all the help that was given to them.

Diana says: "I am very grateful for the support they gave me and I am very happy to know that there are people like Pedro and agencies that help people in similar situations. We, Latinos are sometimes limited by the language or challenged by having to navigate new systems, but thanks to his guidance I was able to get what I needed."



Jonathan, receiving books from Mission Promise Neighborhood

## JONATHAN TORRES AND A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION TO HIGH SCHOOL

It's Jonathan's first year at John O'Connell High School. He joined JOC after graduating from Everett Middle School and is in the 9th grade and would like to share the following.

His experience at JOC has been very pleasant. At the beginning of the school year, his mother, Mrs. Ana submitted an application to switch schools by mistake. When Jonathan heard this he was very sad, as he had made new friends and liked his teachers. Mrs. Ana, along with the help of Rebeca Flores, Family Liaison and Support Services, was able to reverse this mistake. Jonathan was happy to hear this news.

Something new to him is the lockers, and he likes to use them a lot. He can store books and other things when he doesn't need them. This helps him light the load on his backpack throughout the school day.

Jonathan likes his classes and although they are more challenging for him, he has maintained good grades by asking his teachers for help when needed. Thanks to this he has been able to get on and stay on the honor roll. One of his favorite activities at school is drawing and being able to chat with his friends during lunch. And he also loved the trip he and his classmates made to the California Academy of Sciences.



Birth Companions Community Center Members

## THREE LATINA WOMEN EMPOWERED TO SERVE THEIR COMMUNITY WITH RESPECT AND PASSION

Birth Companions Community Center, BCCC, was established in 2020. Its vision is to empower the community, honoring each culture by providing them with tools to achieve their family goals.

Their mission is to serve, educate, and empower the low-income community, immigrant families, pregnant women, and children under five years of age to know their rights and the services available through labor and postpartum doulas and family advocacy.

BCCC was created by 3 Latina women who want to offer their services to the community with respect and passion.

From Guatemala and mother of two, Cristy Ortega graduated from the University in Business Administration back in her hometown. She has lived in San Francisco for 13 years now. In 2014 she started working at Homeless Prenatal Program; since then, she has studied to be a Health Educator, Yoga instructor, and Labor and Postpartum Doula.

Jeny Trejo is from Mexico, a mother of 4 children, residing in San Francisco for 21 years now. She has worked for three years in the community as a lactation consultant, certified doula active in childbirth and postpartum, and a health promoter.

Veronica Fregoso is from Mexico, a mother of 2 children, a specialist in newborns, child development, children with special needs, family support, and a certified Doula active in childbirth and postpartum, bereavement, and health educator.

Since 2018 a group of Latinx Doulas have voluntarily worked on deliveries and postpartum visits. In 2019 Cristy met Jeny and Veronica at a doula training. They all have also volunteered in the community to get donations for pregnant women and in the postpartum stage. They joined forces to embark on a new path

and decided to open the non-profit organization, Birth Companions Community Center, with 18 Latinx Doulas who also want to lovingly serve others. All the doulas in this organization have been trained since 2018 and continue to study to provide the best service to every pregnant mother or mother with children 0-5 years old.

In their own words:

We have worked together, respecting every human being who comes forward wanting to help. There are now 25 doulas serving the community and we have grown with virtual and in person classes. We have supported 39 deliveries, 75 postpartum clients, and 250 clients per month in classes. We have held baby showers every 3 months. Our doulas have expertise in all subjects and each day; they bear witness to life. All this work is dedicated to the Latinx community so that they feel that they have support and can navigate the medical and educational systems in this country.



## THE PROMISE COMMITTEE

*From left: Alejandro, Ana, Pedro, Magali, and Liz. 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 Winter, 2022. If you have an idea or would like to share your story, contact Alejandro at (415) 282-3334 ext. 126 or [abautista@medasf.org](mailto:abautista@medasf.org).*