

In Support of Opportunity Scholarships

Stories of children and parents finding the education best suited for them



Macaria Hurtado

Macaria is a single mother of five children. With the opportunity to receive scholarships, all five children enrolled in Catholic schools in the fall of 2015. The older children attend Mercy High School and the younger children attend Our Lady of Lourdes.

Thanks to their mother's example of persistence and hard work, all five children are good students and involved in their school and parish.

On sending her children to private schools...

"I wanted my children to attend private schools because they have a great education and teach things like respect, discipline and morality. I feel the teachers at my students' schools pay close attention to them and give them the care they need."

On the future she sees for her children...

"The future looks nice today because I can see my children attending college. I thank [generous donors] for the support that is given to us with the scholarships, because in our situation, attending a private school would be impossible - just a dream. I believe that these schools are the best schools because of the education they provide my children; they teach about God and religion and that piece is very important to me."

Michelle Esquivel

Michelle is a senior at Mercy High School. In order to transfer to Mercy, she took extra classes during summer school. Thanks to scholarships, Michelle has excelled at her new school, and her little sister now attends Holy Cross school.



On her new school...

"At my new school, we are like one family. We work together towards a goal. We are all friends, not just those who are in my class. On the academic side, I have grown a lot in writing. Math is not my strength, but the teachers are always there to offer step-by-step help, and we have tests every week. I participate in retreats, and I participate in community service to serve food to those who most need it. I like that the most."

On what she sees for her future...

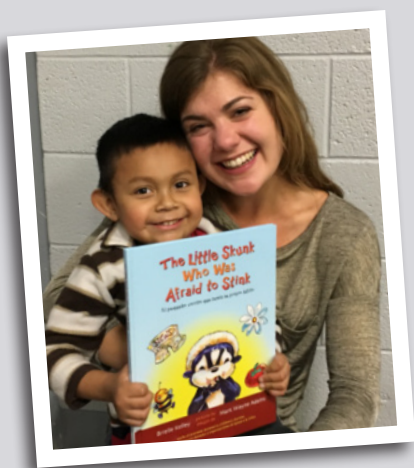
"I would like to be a dentist – this has been my dream since I was a child. I would also like to work as an interpreter because I want to help other parents who can't speak English, since I have seen how my parents struggle because they cannot communicate in English. I give thanks to God for having allowed me to arrive at this school with the help of so many people. I want my parents to be proud of me because they have given me everything. I also want to thank Mercy, which has prepared me very well to go on to college. I have received very positive help and feedback."

Nicholas Heidelberg

An eighth grader at St. Mary's School, Nicholas and his siblings are able to enroll in private school because of scholarships. At St. Mary's, he is involved in the E3 program, an innovative science and math curriculum aimed to empower students to pursue a future in those fields.

On his purpose in the world...

"I am thankful for the opportunity to choose the school I want to go to, and I love my mom for letting me go here. I think I'm here to help other people be successful. That's why I want to become a teacher."



Jesus and Maria Guadalupe Aranda family

Parents of six children (youngest, Andy, pictured with his teacher), Jesus and Maria Guadalupe enrolled their children at Sts. Peter and Paul in the fall of 2015. They very concerned with the education and formation of their children, and lead their family to be involved in their parish and schools.

Without the assistance of scholarships, they would not be able to give their children the education which aligns with their values.

On the change they've seen in their children...

"I can see that my daughters' teachers demand a lot from them. The academic level is high, and my girls have developed many skills. They have learned a lot about moral values in school that we also teach in the home."

On the future for their family...

"We are optimistic. If we can keep them in Catholic school, I see a good future for them because moral values are instilled in them. Formation in the faith and moral values are essential, because they define people very much. Money does not necessarily mean success, but a person of faith and good will is very valuable."

For more stories like these and information about LB295: Opportunity Scholarships Act, visit necatholic.org.