



Elizabeth Cruz, 43; Victoria Cruz, 13; El Paso (education)

Mother: When I was little, like every other little kid, we have dreams. We wanted to be policemen or firefighters, and I wanted to be a teacher and work with kids. I knew we had to go to college in order to accomplish what we wanted to be, but I really didn't see it in my future.

Mother: My mom only went to first grade. She was raised in Mexico and she only went to first grade, and I don't blame her because she was taught that, "Why are we going to school if we are going to end up getting married? We don't need to go to school to learn how to take care of our kids, to learn how to wash dishes."

Mother: Another thing my mom would tell me, "How we are going to do it, Mija? We can't afford it. I have five, and then your dad only works and I don't work." And I didn't know how many programs there were. Now I know, thanks to Con Mi Madre, there are so many opportunities out there: scholarships, you know, even loans. I didn't know. Back then, if I would have gone to college, I mean I was married and I had my little kid. Now I know that probably back then I would have gotten scholarships. But no one told me. So there we go. Time flies, and I just dedicated myself to my kids.

Daughter: My mom has inspired me because, how she said, she didn't have a lot of guidance, and she's always told me to go to college because she doesn't want me to go through all of that. Because she says if you go to college you'll get a good job.

Mother: I've seen a real change in Victoria's mind, which was my goal because I have two other kids, and they didn't go to college either, but they have a career. They're electricians, so they're okay. But with her, I try to teach her that college is very important for her to achieve all of her goals that she has.

Mother: And this program has helped us a lot because it's kind of like they're guiding us through it. I don't feel alone. I don't feel like maybe how my mom felt so many years ago. Maybe she felt alone. There was no one to push her and teach her what to do, so I want to educate myself so I can help her out.

Daughter: It helped me get more confident, because before, I thought about college but I didn't really care, I guess you could say. Like it wasn't really one of my plans to go. And now with this program, it's been helping me a lot and now I want to go to college.

Mother: I see myself back in college, I do. I really do. And I think I have the support of Con Mi MADRE. They're going to help me a lot and I have the support of my family.

Daughter: What I see for my future is, first of all, graduating from college and all that, and seeing myself working as a nurse because that's what I want to do.