

# Overcoming obstacles With and Without Family

Leaving the people that are very close to your heart is the most terrifying thing you can do. Yessica's mom and dad were her heroes, even though her dad was absent. That really tempted her to want to go back to Guatemala.

When she was young, Yessica's comfort to all of her problems was her family. Having to move away from them at the age of 16 made a big impact inside her heart because she needed her mom, the only person that accepts you the way you are and understands your problems. She cries when she remembers the good moments she had with her mom. Like when it was her birthday her mom, would always have a bouquet of roses and a cute message on the side of the most honest and beautiful words.

Yessica grew up in Guatemala, she did not have a very nice childhood. She was bullied in her neighborhood because her dad was absent and she would not have a lot of friends in school. "I always focused on my studies because I knew that it was the only way I could succeed." Yessica left Guatemala with her little niece. She crossed Mexico illegally and then the biggest obstacle was to come.

The most crossed and feared border with roughly 7,000 deaths of immigrants a year was going to be the hardest thing for Yessica after leaving her mom. Yessica and her niece were abandoned in the middle of dessert with only the hope that "el coyote" would come back like he said he would. Yesica and her niece were found by border patrol. The first thing Yessica thought was to run. A mistake, the patroller caught up with her anyway.

She was taken to the coldest room she had ever been to and was asked to take anything off that could harm her like her shoe laces. She was interrogated as if she was a wanted criminal. After some research her niece was separated from her because she wasn't old enough to take care of her. Yessica's niece was taken to a house while Yessica was taken to a shelter for a couple of weeks where other young immigrants are taken, until she received a call saying that she was going to be taken to her niece. Yessica saw her niece as a sister and Yessica was her niece's world since she was everything she had at this very hard time. Both of them cried after they reunited. They received some fortunate news, they were going to be taken to her family she was trying to reach since the beginning.

Yessica wanted to go back because she needed her mom and she needed more support. Although it was really hard for her to stay here, she decided to stay because a lot of things and people depended on her sacrifices: her mom, because Yessica wanted to give her a better life, her niece, because she was the only person she knew as family, and last but not least, herself, because she wanted the opportunity the U.S gives her, free education.

Yessica has learned how to live in the United States through her work ethic and her desire to help her mom. "Thanks to what I learned in Guatemala from my mom, I've learned how to be a good and hard worker that can fit anywhere, today I can say: Put me anywhere and I'll be able to do it," she says.

Yessica sees herself with a graduating with a degree, but for right now, as a senior in high school, she is not sure what she really wants yet. However, she will not give up, because her family is her inspiration, and despite all the bad memories, like witnessing domestic violence, being bullied, and growing up in a humble neighborhood, and all the good memories, like her mom and dad making peace after he did so much harm to his family, she will push through the obstacles and "with God's help one day I'll have my degree and finally go to my mom's arms and tell her that all of our sacrifices were worth it. Thanks, Mom."