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In Carthage, Texas

My life unfolds in three distinct stages: past, present, and future. Each phase intertwines with the next, shaping the person I am today and the individual I aspire to become tomorrow.

My journey through life has been defined by resilience and perseverance, shaped by the challenges I have faced and the lessons I have learned along the way. Born in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, one of the world's most dangerous cities at one point of the story, my early years were marked by hardship and uncertainty. Seeking a better future for my family, my mother made the courageous decision to immigrate to the United States when I was just 11 years old. Adjusting to a new country and culture was fraught with challenges, particularly mastering a new language.

However, life's trials continued after living in Tyler, TX for one year, due to the economic decrease in 2006. I must move to Nacogdoches, Tx. The relocation brought unforeseen trials. A harrowing ordeal unfolded when I was twelve, as I became a victim of sexual abuse perpetrated by the pastor of our church. It took years of inner turmoil and psychological therapy to confront and overcome the trauma. Despite the passage of time, the courage to seek justice emerged, culminating in a pivotal moment six years ago when I, alongside my sister, filed charges against my abuser. Although he remains a fugitive, the act of speaking out empowered me and reinforced the importance of breaking the silence surrounding abuse.

Life took a difficult turn when, at 15, I found myself pregnant. Despite the challenges, I graduated from Nacogdoches High School and began attending Angelina College. However, the demands of motherhood and the complexities of navigating a new language and educational system proved overwhelming, leading me to drop out during my second semester.

Undeterred by setbacks, I resolved to pursue my education once more. Encouraged by my sister, I enrolled at Panola College in 2020, determined to overcome the obstacles that had previously derailed my academic aspirations. Though balancing the responsibilities of work, family, and school presented its own set of challenges, I persevered, driven by the desire to create a better future for myself and my daughter.

In 2023, I faced one of the darkest periods of my life. Struggling with depression and trapped in a toxic relationship, I hit rock bottom. Yet, it was in this moment of despair that I

found the strength to reclaim my life. Returning to my mother's home, I charted a new course, setting clear goals and committing myself to personal and academic growth.

Despite financial struggles and health challenges, I remained steadfast in my determination to succeed. Working full-time at Pilgrim's Pride to support my family, I also assisted my mother with household expenses, all while striving to provide a brighter future for my daughter.

The support I received from Panola College was instrumental in my journey. From dedicated counselors like Dr. Gee to compassionate teachers who accommodated my needs during tough times, the college community rallied around me when I needed it most. Their assistance, including emergency aid programs, enabled me to stay focused on my education and career goals. The support and resources provided by Panola College, including the invaluable guidance of counselor Dr. Gee my journey toward realizing my dream of becoming an educator. I am planning to complete my associate degree in teaching in May 2025 and pursue further education at SFA or UT Tyler, I am driven by the belief that education is the key to breaking cycles of adversity and empowering future generations.

Now, as I near the completion of my associate degree in teaching, I am filled with a sense of purpose and possibility. My experiences, though challenging, have fueled my passion for education and inspired me to become the kind of teacher I needed when I was younger. My goal is to have my own classroom, where I can inspire and support students, just as others have done for me. I am determined to empower future generations, teaching them by example that resilience, determination, and the belief in one's ability to overcome adversity can lead to success.