

Mother of the Year ~ Maria Aguilar Lozano

When you ask someone to define what a mother is, you will get all sorts of responses. Some will state that a mother is someone who is responsible for a child. One who provides food and shelter to their offspring. While every mother is special in their own way, some are just extraordinary in their willingness to help their families and others.

My mother, Maria Aguilar is a member of HACC, works for HARC, raising two children and has been married for 35 years. My sibling and I grew up in a small town that provided us with the perfect environment to grow up in. Even though our town was small she was able to show us the meaning of hard work and how a family is defined. When she first came to America she worked hard mentally and physically to bring other family members to live the American Dream. At the age of 14, she entered high school knowing little the English language. But she was able to overcome the barriers and fit in. Since then she continued to work hard and pursue a BA in Psychology. My mother was the first in our family to graduate college. Since then she always bring the importance of higher education.



Since I can remember she always loved working with infants and toddlers. Especially those who are special needs, providing the adequate service they need to live their life to the fullest. She always believed that every child should receive the opportunity to learn and grow in a nurturing environment. She was able to pass that passion on to me. When I was a teenager she always encouraged me to help others and see everyone as equal regardless of race, culture or status. Since the age of 18 to now I have continued that passion.

My mother was involved in the foster care system and adoption, which has brought her a new perspective of children involved with DCF. She always made room in her heart and showed loved to every person who came through her doors. Whether it is family members or strangers she always took the time to show hospitality. In 2004, as I was in college my mother adopted Moesha. As she was entering the stage of child rearing, she selflessly welcomed a toddler to our family. She wanted Moesha to gain exposure of the world, as I did when I was her age. My mother was and is open to explore other cultures. She took Moesha and I to explore, Europe, South America, Russia and Canada. She continues today to explore the rest of the world with us. She would always remind us that to be human you accept anybody and everything for who they are. She personally taught me the meaning of helping others. Without her encouragement I wouldn't be pursuing my master's degree. She continues to push my sibling and I to our full potential and always reminds us to do our best. She always reminded us that we are capable of doing anything as long as we put our mind to it. I can say proudly that I am following in her footsteps in working with children and families and providing them the right tools to grow. She provides such positive influence and encouragement to her families that she receives many requests as a provider.

My mother is a noble woman who surpasses them all. To me, a good mother will put the needs of others before her own. By description she may be viewed like other mothers, but to me she is a perfect example of being an outstanding Hispanic woman born in Cabana, Peru where her parents were also born. She always provided the right quantity of empathy, support and empowerment. One day I will express to my mother that it was she who made me who I am today.

I believe my mother; Maria would be pleased that I am nominating her for this honor she so richly deserves.

Thank You, Pilar S. Aguilar