

Estanzuelas, November 22, 2010

To: Amigos from Kansas, St. Patrick's Church

From: Manuel Antonio Coreos, ALVP (Asociación La Voz del Pueblo)

Dear friends from Kansas,

Please receive my affectionate greetings. It is an honor to write you in order to greet you and share my gratitude for all of the economic support that you have offered me and my peers throughout the development of our academic studies.

I am proud to tell you that thanks to all of you, and to the moral support of my family, I have finished my studies, because in December I will graduate with a degree in Computer Science.

I would like to say to you that I feel very happy that I have achieved one of my dreams; it is thanks to your support that I have achieved this.

Nothing remains but to show you my gratitude and the gratitude of my family to you. I hope to find a job in the very near future in order to help my family and other young people who, like me, have their own dreams, but also have the same lack of economic resources.

But taking your actions as a model, we aspire to be and make the difference in our community.

Thank you for this unending legacy and for all that I have learned thanks to the solidarity that you practice.

I thank you again, and I trust that all of these acts of love that you carry out, God will return to you in blessings for you and your families.

I value and admire all of you so very much.

Sincerely,

Manuel Antonio Coreos

Asociación La Voz del Pueblo

Estanzuelas, El Salvador, C.A.

November 2010

St. Patrick's Church

Kansas City

Dear Members of St. Patrick's Church in Kansas City,

Please receive a big hug from El Salvador and an affectionate greeting from me, Juan Rubén Ayala, one of the students that received a scholarship through your very generous program in solidarity with Salvadoran youth of scarce economic resources.

I write you to thank for your support and to share with you that thanks to all of you altruistic people, I have managed to reach my goal of becoming a communications professional. Without your economic support, I would not have been able to complete my university studies. I am very happy, because my graduation date, which I am anxiously awaiting, is drawing near. On December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010, I take the next step in my life, which I have achieved with your support and that of The Voice of the People Association. My success is also due to the great sacrifice and moral support of my parents, who encouraged me day after day to continue my education in the future.

We live in a country where there is so much poverty, and where government after government have never concerned themselves with providing opportunities like you do, with the great generosity that you show to us: We are youth who have the desire to overcome all obstacles, who seek greater development for our country, in which we are all truly dedicated to the Salvadoran society. It is for that reason that **many** youth have the desire to continue studying; however, due to lack of economic resources, most are not able to succeed.

For that reason, I hope that you always continue your scholarship program in El Salvador, so that we young people have more opportunities to advance towards a better future, and so that you continue to have the opportunity to contribute to the progress of our country, El Salvador.

I thank you again for the hard work that you do from your country in order to continue helping those in need, contributing your grain of sand, which means so much. For your parish, and all of its members, may you continue in your Christian faith. I pray to our all-powerful God that He bless each and every one of you. Also, I ask that this Christmas, God the Creator showers you with blessings and cares for you, guiding you in the Christian journey. May He open doors for people like you. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Juan Rubén Ayala

Estanzuelas, November 24, 2010

From: Lucinda Quintanilla

To: St. Patrick's Church, Kansas City

Dear Family,

Brothers and Sisters of St. Patrick's Church, it is a pleasure to write you this letter. On this occasion, I would like to share with you happy news, that fills my heart with joy.

I am just a few days from graduating from College with a degree in Communications, and it is wonderful to know that after 6 years of continuous struggle, I have finally been able to reach one of my most desired goals: to be able to graduate from college, and serve my society in a professional manner.

You have no idea how excited I am, because six years ago, nobody would have given a penny for me, but you all believed firmly in my abilities and decided to bet on me/support me, not expecting anything in return, and now, I can say to you, "Mission Accomplished!" Thank you for the love, the trust, for all of the effort and the support, because if it weren't for you and your solidarity toward me, I would never been able to make my dreams a reality.

Studying at a university level was not at all easy, especially for someone like me, who comes from a small rural community where 80% of women dedicate themselves to being housewives, because they didn't have money to go to study, and those lucky enough to attend High School weren't able to go on to study at a university level because of the financial cost, a cost that I also couldn't afford. But I had something more important than money to study; my dreams and an infinity of goals that I wanted to make a reality, and of course, a great blessing—the love, effort, and support of all of you, my family in Kansas City, my brothers and sisters of St. Patrick's Church.

The truth is that no money could buy the satisfaction that I feel right now, and that I hope that you share with me, because what I achieved is not just a university degree, it is a representation of my life, it is my dream, it is a demonstration that yes, humble people can achieve goals, it is an example for other youth, so they know that dreams can become a reality if we believe in them, if we fight for them, and if we are surrounded by angels like you that guide us and make our journey a little less complicated. This is also your achievement; this degree also belongs to all of you. You changed my life and you made me believe in myself. I know that I would never have done it if I had never known you. Every early morning that I had to get up, I felt that I carried on my shoulders the responsibility to not disappoint you. Just thinking about how difficult it must be to raise funds to help us touches my heart, and makes my commitment stronger.

Now, all that remains is to thank you. Because of your help, there are now youth with the desire to dream in my town. They want to be professionals in their country, they want, like I do, to change the reality in their communities.

My world is different now: Although I am a *campesina* (peasant), today I am a *campesina* that is prepared to take on the world, a world that you painted with beautiful colors, and I am happy. Now I have new goals to reach, and though you are perhaps not physically close, you will always be in my heart.

I would like to thank you for what you have done for me, and for the help that you will no doubt continue to offer to my brothers and sisters here in Estanzuelas—to all of the young people that have a dream like the one I had six years ago, and was able to fulfill thanks to you.

I wish that I could express to you the infinity of emotions that I carry inside of me, and personally thank every one of the people that I spent time with when I visited you in that wonderful country and that wonderful city that I hope to visit again someday: Kathleen and Gene Desaulniers, Father Jerry, Sister Rita, Joanne, and everyone that contributed their grain of sand to support us. This paper is small and I can't fit any more on it, and besides, I don't want to tire you out. Just remember that here in El Salvador, you have another daughter that will always love you—your faces are etched in my heart.

May God shower you with blessings and care for you and guide you always, I love you very much, and I hope that you will never forget me, my dear family of St. Patrick's church.

Blessings and a big hug,

Lucinda Quintanilla