

I wish I had a chance to say a proper thank you to all of the supporters of Tapestry of Hope, especially Reneé Dormois Sullins, one of the founders. I am writing to share how grateful I am for all of the help and support I have received from Tapestry of Hope.

I met Mrs. Reneé my junior year in high school in one of La Raza club meetings. With her help and her organization, I was fortunate to attend a summer camp at Texas A&M University for prospective teachers (ExPLORE). Not only did she take her time to help me complete the application, but also drove my friend and me to the university from Houston. That summer, she surprised me with a personal cell phone. At the time, I did not have a cell-phone. Tapestry of Hope helped pay for the cell-phone for two years. I was able to keep in touch with Mrs. Reneé during my senior year in preparing for college, as well as into my freshman year at A&M.

My senior year in high school, I was given the opportunity of be Vice-President in her club *Carpe Diem*. Within the club I was able to learn the social skills needed to become successful in life. In addition, I was part of a 5-week writing class and a table manners class, held after school. All the materials for the classes were paid for by Tapestry of Hope donors.

However, her support did not end there. Coming from a Hispanic family and being the first one to learn English was hard. Never in my dreams did I dream I'd be able to attend one of best universities in Texas, much less, earn a college! My parents knew they wanted to give their four daughters a treasure: something that could not be taken away from them, an education. Still, this new chapter in my families' life was a challenging one. We did not have the knowledge of how to apply, nor did we understand how much a higher education would cost.

As my senior year went by, Mrs. Reneé become my mentor, more like an angel to be specific. With her guidance and her support, I applied to three universities, one of them being Texas A&M. After Ms. Renee proofread my application essays and sent off the applications, it was graduation time. The day of graduation my family invited Mrs. Reneé to dinner to celebrate. There, in the parking lot after the ceremony, I told Mrs. Reneé that I had been accepted into Texas A&M. During our dinner she talked to my parents of what a great opportunity it was for me to attend Texas A&M or any other college. It put their minds at ease and they were ready for me to follow my dreams.

That summer, she helped find donors to donate furniture for my new home. In addition, one of the donors paid for my Aggies football game season pass. That was a treat! Of course, Mrs. Reneé kept in touch with me. During my second month as a freshman, my grandmother passed away. It was a very emotional time for me; being away for first time from home and with my mom in Mexico with my grandmother. But, my Mrs. Reneé, my "Aggie Mom" like I call her now, knew the correct words to give me courage and motivation. With her motivational texts and her personal notes in the mail, I was able to turn an F into an A; even my professor could not explain it. Needless to say, I graduated from Texas A&M with honors, magna cum laude.

I am currently a first grade bilingual teacher in Bryan Independent School District. In addition, I will be receiving my Masters degree from Texas A&M in Bilingual Education the spring of 2016. I am grateful to have met Mrs. Reneé in that afterschool club meeting eight years ago. She has also helped my two younger sisters who are currently at Texas A&M University, as well as advised my youngest sister to enroll in two different charter schools in Houston in the past 8 years.

Your generosity has given me the opportunity to fulfill my dream. Tapestry of Hope helps those in need to complete a journey. A journey that is unreachable sometimes. Nevertheless, with all the odds against us we are able to fulfill our dreams. Your donations help students, like myself, and lighten our financial burdens so we attend college; whether it's a community college or a 4-year university. Likewise, I have been inspired to help others, the young children. I hope to one-day help my students achieve their goals just as you have helped me.

Angelita Y

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