

Camino a Casa: Success Stories

Graduation Celebration

Meet Pedro, a 16-year-old boy from Quiche. Pedro attempted to travel to the U.S. to provide for his family but was deported. Upon return, he continued his schooling and became the first in his family to receive his diploma; however, Pedro was not going to be able to attend the graduation ceremony due to associated expenses.

That's where LIRS stepped in. Camino a Casa paid the fees for Pedro to attend graduation and bought him a cap and gown. With the help of LIRS, Pedro will also continue into higher education.



Health and Happiness

Meet Jose, a teenager living in Huehuetenango. Two years ago, Jose's father suffered a traumatic brain injury, leaving him unable to work. Uninsured, Jose's father could not afford to seek medical attention despite suffering from seizures regularly. Jose attempted to make the dangerous journey to the U.S. to find work so he could support his family since his father was unable to re-enter the workforce, but Jose was sent back.

Camino a Casa has been able to help not only Jose but his family. The program recently provided funding for Jose's father to see a neurologist. He is now on seizure medication and will be returning to work in the coming weeks, following medical clearance. Staff have also assisted Jose with enrolling in vocational training and are addressing other concerns within the home through individual and family counseling.



Furthering Education

Meet Margarita, an 18-year-old living with her mother, brother, aunt, and cousin. Like her aunt and mother before her, Margarita attempted to travel to the U.S. to find a job to support her family. Margarita's mother suffers from medical issues that require medication the family cannot afford, and the family has accrued debt in order to cover their basic needs. These pressures weighed heavily on Margarita as she desperately wanted to be able to assist her family financially.

Camino a Casa has been able to assist in purchasing medication for Margarita's mother to address her illness. LIRS is also working with Margarita to realize her goals of getting a job in the beauty industry. Staff have aided Margarita in acquiring a government-issued ID to enroll in classes and signed her up for job training with the government-funded vocational program, INTECAP. In addition, an LIRS psychologist meets with Margarita to help her overcome her anxiety around being the family provider, and to identify goals for the family to work towards stabilization.



A Comfortable Resting Place

Meet Juan, a 17-year-old boy living with his parents and five siblings. Due to the family's limited income, Juan and his siblings sleep on the floor of their adobe home. While LIRS was able to finance beds for the children, it was the relentless efforts of our case manager, Carlos Mendoza, that made this project a success. The highway into the town was under repair, so the only way in was by foot over a long, narrow bridge. Carlos, Juan's family, and other community members, banded together to ensure the mattresses arrived safely to the family's home. Camino a Casa will continue working with the family to assess and meet their needs and is assisting Juan with school supplies so he can further his education.



LIRS

Meet the team

Camino a Casa is staffed by our Regional Head, Head of Program, two Psychologists, and two Social Workers



From left to right: Diana Cifuentes Gonzalez (Psychologist), Harriette Rothwell (LIRS consultant), Sharon Huertas (Head of Program), Libby Sittley (Deputy Director for Foster Care), Marleny Paz (Social Worker), Allan Barrera (Regional Head), Carlos Mendoza (Social Worker), and Luis Alvarado (Psychologist).

