

Why My Father Came to California

by Danny Cortes

My father is from Michoacan, Mexico. There he had to endure many hardships because in Mexico there are less opportunities for work, and limited ways to survive. He knew if he came to California, he would have a much better life. He came to this country with my mom and cousin. My dad left most of his family in Morelia, Mexico in a pueblo called Titzio. He came in hopes of having a better life.

My father needed a visa to come to the United States. In Mexico, he would look at the clerks, who were my uncles, and the American flags they had in their humble stores. At the airport, he'd see people boarding planes to the United States. He knew that would be him someday.

My Dad has been living here in California for 30 years. He began working as a cattle rancher, and as a gardener. For many years, he worked with his dad. He is very grateful that he now has a job at Lowe's. My Dad tells me, "Danny, if we lived in Mexico, it would be harder to go to college because there are less opportunities for us. Be very thankful that we're here in the USA. If you stay in school, it will pay off. If you work hard, you will be successful throughout your life."

My older brother says, "Stay in school, and if you do, you might get into USC." I want to go to college and maybe even play football at USC!

I am grateful my Dad has paved the way for my family here in the United States. My Dad's struggle has made it easier our family and for me. And one day I will make him proud.

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