



## Rita's Story

Rita was born in Lagunillas, Jalisco, Mexico.

Neither her mother nor her father could read or write.

She completed 6<sup>th</sup> grade in Mexico.

She came on a student visa to Mountain View High School when she was a teenager for one year and danced folklorico.

She returned to Mexico and got married.

She had 2 children in Mexico.

She and her husband and children got a green card when they came to the US under amnesty.

Her 3<sup>rd</sup> child was born in the US.

She started cleaning houses for a few people to earn a little money.

When her children were teenagers, she began to study English at De Anza College.

Rita **studied hard** and earned a Certificate of Achievement in Child Development at De Anza College.

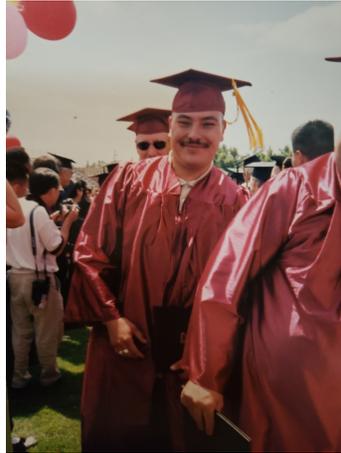
She got a job in the Child Development Center at De Anza and has worked there part-time for 15 years. She makes \$25/hour.

She still cleans houses for two people for a little extra money.

Rita never learned to drive. She gets rides and uses the bus to get everywhere.

Her husband just became a US citizen in 2020.

Rita became a US citizen in 2022 and now works full-time at De Anza in the Child Development Center.



## Ivan's Story

Ivan was born in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico.

He finished 6<sup>th</sup> grade in Mexico.

He came to the US with a green card with his family in the amnesty program.

He graduated from Homestead High School.

Ivan started De Anza College after high school and studied Automotive Technology.

Ivan got into some trouble with the law during high school and in his 20s.

Ivan paid his debt to society while incarcerated.

Ivan continued his college and **studied hard**.

Ivan used financial aid to help him pay for college and automotive tools.

He earned three (3) AS Automotive Technology degrees in Engine Performance, Chassis Technology and Powertrain Technology.

Ivan has worked as an auto mechanic for 18 years.

He says that even with his background, he never has trouble finding a job because of his college degrees in Auto Tech.

He has 3 children.

Ivan went back to De Anza in 2019 to get a Certificate of Achievement in Smog Technician to help him earn \$40/ hour.

He is currently working as an auto mechanic earning around \$50/hr.



## Karina's Story

Karina was born in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico.

She came to the US with a green card with her family in the amnesty program.

She graduated from Homestead High School.

She went to De Anza College after high school in the EOPS Program.

She used financial aid to help pay for college.

After 3 years, she transferred to UC Santa Cruz.

Karina **studied hard** and graduated with a BA degree in Sociology from UCSC.

Karina became a US citizen.

She worked for 2 years as a receptionist.

Karina went back to De Anza College and **studied hard** to earn an AA in Paralegal Studies.

She worked as a Paralegal at the Santa Clara County Public Defender's Office for about 10 years.

Karina decided to **study hard** at the Correctional Officer's Academy. And she passed the physical!

She worked as a Correctional Officer in Santa Clara County for 3 years. She made \$45/hour.

Her boyfriend works for the Sheriff's Office.

Karina has never been married and has no children.

In Winter 2020 Karina was invited to teach a class at De Anza College in Administration of Justice.

In 2023 started an online master's program at Cornell University and graduated in 2024.

She now works at a start-up in Silicon Valley providing paralegal advice. She had to take a pay cut but hopes to move up soon!



## Jose's Story

Jose was born in Lagunillas, Jalisco, Mexico.

Neither his mother nor his father could read or write.

He did not go to school until his father moved 8 of his 10 children to Guadalajara.

Jose started 1<sup>st</sup> grade at the age of 9.

He only finished 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and then started working at the age of 12.

Jose met Cindy on the streets of Guadalajara and had a chance to go to the US with a coyote at the age of 16.

At 17 years old he entered the US with a fiancé visa and they were married.

He got his green card.

Jose **studied very hard** one year at Homestead high school, one year of adult education, 4 years at De Anza and 3 years at Foothill.

In 1984, Jose graduated with an AA in Liberal Arts from De Anza and an AS in Ornamental Horticulture from Foothill.

Jose also got his contractor's license.

He started his own landscaping business.

He had two children.

Jose did landscaping and gardening for 20 years.

Jose and Cindy got divorced but stayed good friends.

After landscaping, Jose started buying property to rent.

He now owns several apartment buildings, a laundromat, a restaurant, a couple houses and an almond ranch.

Jose became a US citizen in 2016.

Cindy helps him with all his computer work because he is afraid to use a computer.



## Daniel's Story

Daniel was born in Sunnyvale, CA.  
Daniel **studied hard**.  
Daniel graduated from Homestead High School.  
He was an Eagle Scout in the boy scouts.  
Daniel went to UC Santa Cruz 4.5 years and got a BS in Health Science.  
He graduated from UCSC and worked 2 years in biotech.  
He went to SJSU for a certificate as a Public Health Microbiologist.  
Daniel has worked 10 years at Santa Clara County Health Dept.  
Daniel was doing COVID19 testing during the pandemic.  
Daniel makes \$81/hr. He owns a condo and has a steady girlfriend.

## David's Story

David was born in Sunnyvale, CA.  
David did not like to study hard.  
He graduated from Homestead High School.  
David played basketball on the varsity team.  
He went to De Anza College but didn't graduate.  
David worked for 7 years at Whole Foods Market.  
He quit Whole Foods.  
David worked 1 year as a cannabis delivery driver.  
David worked at Outdoor Supply for a year.  
David then returned to Whole Foods and worked second job at Nike for about six months enough to pay off his car and credit card debt. He now works only at Whole Foods and earns about \$22/hr.  
He gave up drinking alcohol in Sept 2022 and gave up smoking weed in 2025. He is learning to be sober.



What will be your story?

