

GENESIS

Opening doors and
supporting new families.

Rosa's Story

Growing up in a strict, traditional family was a challenge for Rosa, and expressing herself at home was difficult. She had changed schools just before she got pregnant and always wore loose clothing, making it easy to hide her pregnancy. "I was very young, so I didn't know what was going on with the changes in my body. I actually denied this pregnancy," she said.

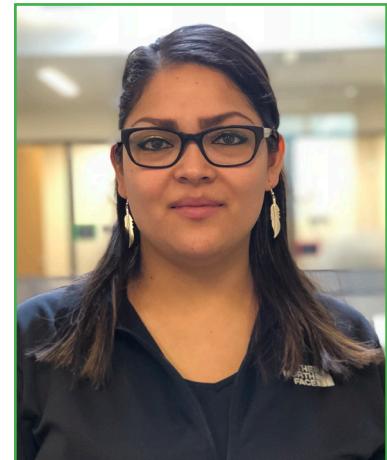
She never received prenatal care. When she went into labor she yelled for help from her parents and was rushed to the hospital. Her parents gave her privacy and accepted that she did not want to talk about the situation. "It took a lot of counseling and therapy for me to even get to this point and be okay to talk about it, because for a very long time, I was very cooped up," Rosa said.

Once at the hospital, the nurses and doctors told her about the GENESIS Program. "They knew I didn't have anything for the baby, nor was I prepared for this baby if I decided to keep it," she said. Within one day she was connected to Teri, her parent educator, who brought her a bassinet, baby clothes, and diapers.

Rosa emphasized that instead of treating her like a number in her caseload, Teri acted more like a counselor who made Rosa feel like she could reach out for help. "She gave me lots of tools, and if she didn't have them, she would find them," Rosa said. Rosa has always had the desire to grow as an individual and a mother, and events with other GENESIS participants have allowed her to do just that.

Rosa completed nursing school and is now a licensed practical nurse. She dispenses medication for patients, takes care of acute problems, and is the first responder in emergencies. "I always work more than usual because I can't just leave the patient there as though they are paper plates; these are people we are talking about!" she said. GENESIS helped Rosa to become passionate about what she does because she felt supported and wants to do the same for others. Rosa has established compassion as a goal for her children too. "I always tell them they didn't have a good day if they didn't do something for someone else," Rosa said.

Rosa is now in the process of purchasing a home. She hopes to return to school to continue in higher education and advance her career. She is now more communicative and able to express herself when she is around family. "I made a very adult decision with my teenage capability of thinking, and I don't regret it at all," she shared. She used to feel guilty because she didn't ask for help, but she's forgiven herself and now advocates for others to speak their minds.



“ I loved GENESIS since the beginning. They offer lots of moral support, and Teri is very genuine when helping me out. ”