



Marco: “My Mission is Being Accomplished”

Marco (former day worker, Center volunteer, board member of Peninsula Interfaith Action): “I came here to find the necessary resources to move my family forward—especially my three children, all of them school-age.

“After twenty years as an assistant manager in the banking system, my family and I moved to Jalapa, Veracruz, so I could start a hardware business and spend more time with my wife and children. After a successful start, we felt the effects of the free trade agreement. Chain stores came to Mexico, and our business and our savings disappeared.

“When I came here in June, 2003, a friend showed me where the Center was located, and I signed up immediately. My very first job was washing cars, and the boss didn’t want to pay us. The Center sent me to the Legal Clinic at Stanford, and we won in Small Claims Court.

“The objective of my coming here is being accomplished—to see that my children have the necessary education and preparation so they can spread their wings and fly.

“My oldest, Lucía Natalia, just earned a degree in Music and Fine Arts from the University of Veracruz. Music is her passion.

“My son, Marco Antonio, Jr. earned a degree in Marketing and Communications from the University of Jalapa. He is the Creative Director for “Sonora Ganadera,” a magazine for the livestock industry.

“Angel Gabriel, my youngest, was born with a rare metabolic disorder and ADHD. Although school has been a real struggle, he perseveres. He recently won a prize in creative writing from the State of Veracruz. He created a website for children with learning difficulties.

“It’s rewarding to be able to give back to the community with my first aid and lifesaving skills. Through the center I had the opportunity to participate in the Red Cross’ First Aid and CPR CERT training with other fellow day workers. Now I am a trainer. I train teachers for the Red Cross CERT program.”