



Mike and Kathy Gallagher scholarship awarded to Elidet Rodriguez

Thanks to a generous gift from the Gallaghers, Friends of Niños Adelante is able this year to offer a scholarship grant of \$1500 per year for four years of successful university study to the an outstanding young woman, Elidet Rodriguez Fuerte. The following is Elidet's translated letter included in her application to the committee.

- My name is Elidet Rodriguez Fuerte I am 21 years old I was born in the mountains of Petatlan, I have eight brothers and sisters.
- My brother Nicasio (24 years) is a college student at the Technology university Costa Grande in Zihuatanejo as an accountant. He also works as an assistant accountant.
- My brother David (23) can not hear or speak he is working in Ixtapa Zihuatanejo.
- My sister Norma (19) just finished high school and entered Tecnology University to study accounting as well.
- My brother Jose Daniel (16 years) is studying ninth grade
- Audel (14 years) studying ninth grade in school Eva Samano,
- Yanet (12) studying eighth grade
- Diana (7 years) who is studying second grade.

My father was a farmer, where we lived in the mountains it was difficult to study because there were no teachers, some teachers were sent to teach but then returning to the village after a few months. It was difficult to finish the years classes, my parents decided to look for more opportunities for us to continue studying. First we settled in Petatlan and then later in Zihuatanejo where we enrolled in primary school in third and fourth grade with my sister Norma. My father found work in a tortilla mill. My mom searched for a way to put a roof over our heads. Through Fibazi (they control the land use in Zihuatanejo) she was able to obtain a piece of land where my father could build a wooden house for us. We went to live there and that was when we entered the primary Octavio Paz near my house. We completed 5th and 6th grade but when we finished elementary my dad did not want us to study anymore because my family is low income, it was then that teacher Maria commented to Maryellen Jackson who spoke with my dad to tell him we had earned good grades, she would support us to continue our education. My father accepted and I continued studying in secondary school at Carolina Coronado Ramirez and finished secondary school. Then I went to the study at the Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz school. My classes were in the afternoon so in the morning I studied a nursing course and a first aid course.

I just finished high school and want to continue studying college to get a degree in nursing and then do a masters in nursing and then to teach nursing. I am very proud to be a Niños Adelante Student. and very grateful for the support I have had, I am looking forward to University in Acapulco to further my education, now my average is 9.4 on a scale of 10, Thank you very much.

Elidet Rodriguez Fuerte