

# MARLENE'S FIRSTGEN DREAMS

I am a first generation student of immigrant parents. My parents migrated to find better opportunities, but since they did not have a legal immigration status, they could not get a stable, typical American job. Instead, my dad found work in a noble occupation: construction. When my parents bought our current house, we struggled to afford food, monthly rent, remodeling, and more.

I know that my parents tried their hardest to provide for a family of 8, but the bullying was unavoidable. Since I would not get the latest Nikes or Vans, I would get picked on by my peers. And in a different way, I could see how the US was picking on my parents. They would often face discrimination and it hurt not being able to do anything when I witnessed it. It was also really hard knowing that if my parents visited their families in Mexico, they could not come back to be with us in the US.

Through all of this, I know that being in this country is something I always wished for. Having my parents with me calms me because despite all the struggles we face daily, their ability to see my accomplishments is a blessing. I passed elementary and middle school, and I'm looking forward to graduating high school and going to college one day. That goal is not only a dream of mine but also the dream of my parents and all of my siblings.

