



## MEET BABY EMMANUEL AND HIS MOM ROSLIANY

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I want to begin this testimony with words of gratitude especially to you the donors of Centro Tepeyac for being there to help many persons such as myself-- to help us find the light when we find ourselves in moments of great darkness.

All my life I dreamed of being a mother and of having a large family. For many years I decided to forego having children so that I could have my children in a good circumstance where they would not be lacking in anything.

I graduated in Venezuela with a surgical nursing degree and I came to this country with the hope of having a good life in order to be able to offer my children a good home, food, education, and the same moral and religious values with which I was raised.

Then I met the man who I thought would be an ideal father to my children. But I was wrong, we made mistakes including the abortion of a child we both wanted.

Besides this unhappy circumstance I also found myself in an extremely complicated immigration process which is still in play and then, finally, much to my dismay-- I discovered that I was once again pregnant-- this time with my son Emmanuel.

Thinking that I could be deported to Venezuela, a country in its worst moment in history, where human rights are not respected and the social, political, and economic situation are so severe that there is not even enough food to eat. I asked myself how could I bring a child into this world when I myself was in such a precarious situation. If I were to be deported as a pregnant woman-- my situation would be even more difficult than that of the ordinary Venezuelan trying to make ends meet.

In this dire situation, I asked God with much anguish and desperation to guide me and to help me make the best decision for me and my baby. Searching in the internet I found Centro Tepeyac. From the start Mariana became for me the guardian angel who spoke sweet words full of calm, who told me that I was not alone, and that she would support me in everything that I would need. But that wasn't all-- she presented to me the entire staff of Centro Tepeyac-- including the medical staff and I was able to meet my baby in a sonogram, jumping around and full of life! Thanks to the Metro Stork Bus I could see my baby for the first time!

God had answered my prayer. From the moment I came to Tepeyac till the traumatic and premature delivery of my little Emmanuel-- I was accompanied by the persons of Centro Tepeyac. The situation with the father of my baby deteriorated terribly and Centro helped to find me housing. They even found me a pro-bono lawyer to help with my legal issues-- now the godfather of my baby. Even though the baby of my father abandoned me,

**"I was never lacking in the necessary means to have and care for my baby. Tepeyac is much more than a center of support for poor mothers, each staff member and volunteer has become a part of my family, because they in fact became my only family to this day!"**



**"I take care of my baby myself and I don't want to miss one moment of his infancy. This is the best part of being a mother."**

I will not say that it is impossible to have a child alone, and even though I left my country, Venezuela, my country did not leave me! It was there that I learned to be a woman who fights for her life, and a woman who believes that all things are possible with the help of God.

Here at Tepeyac they tell me that I am a marvelous woman, an exceptional case! But my only answer to them is that with the support of so many people who have not left me alone I would not have made it. And that I never would have believed that I could find such support and care in this town and in this country.

That is why tonight I want to express my deep gratitude to all of you who support Tepeyac for the unconditional love that I received during my pregnancy and in my long and complicated postpartum period. In the circumstances I found myself in-- unimaginable to me in the desperation of my situation with an abusive partner-- I had the good fortune of meeting these persons, men and women, who gave me the necessary support to survive this situation. Today I have nothing but good wishes and words of gratitude for their help.

All of this was made possible by your support, you who have made it possible for me to tell my story, and who are inspiring mothers like me to choose life.

Thank you..