

Topic : A lot of people struggle in life for being able to have a good life and a better life such as reasons for education , economic problems , or even safety.

Abstract : My father was able to come to the U.S. to accomplish his American dream. He came here and helped establish my families' desire and need for a better place, through hard work and motivation. They were able to move forward in life and grow as individuals. It also shows how family will stick together regardless the circumstances and grow more united. Discrimination was not allowed to break through his hard working family and at the end their American dream was successfully accomplished.

Key Words: Journey, dreams, Mexico, Economy, Zacatecas, United States, Community ,education, agriculture, hardworking, legal, future, landscaping , U.S.Citizen, Mexican American , border patrol, unequal, mistreat, discrimination,family.

Accomplishing an American Dream.

A journey to a better place is dreams where a lot of people in different countries try to make come true because sometimes their country doesn't really have a supportive economically. Mexico is one of those countries; the government doesn't give enough money for cities in need. My parents are from Zacatecas Mexico to be more specific a small town called Juchipila , Zacatecas Mexico, its located right in the heart of Mexico. I was born in the United States, but my family struggled through a difficult stage in life just to get us a life here.

My dad comes from a medium class family, not poor not rich, but even sometimes they didn't have enough money to have meat for dinner. My grandpa worked in agriculture such as growing his own crops in the field and in farming. My grandpa was a hard worker he worked as much as he can so he can be able to provide food on the table for his family. When my father was a small boy he lived in a little small brick house that my grandpa built with only one room. My father had 12 brothers and sisters including him, I can't imagine all of them having to be able to fit in a small little room. They lived up in the hills , which in Spanish are called "La Cierra" ,

the place was only populated with 10 families and one little school house down the hill . This little small place is now a ghost town. All the houses were in the mountains and it sounds abit terrifying because at night it'd get pitch dark. Sometimes it was hard for people to be able to work in the hills because they'd have to carry loads of materials and buckets of water, the materials were heavy which also could've been dangerous especially having to climb up and down hills.

My dad has always told me “Be grateful for what you have, because sometimes there were days for us. In my family that all we had were beans for dinner or even just a piece of bread and your grandpa had to feed 12 of us kids.” That sounded difficult for someone to do, 12 kids is a lot of people to feed, especially in those times. When my father was 16 he decided to come to the united states to be able to help his father with economic problems but he only go on his vacation days in school because school was very important for my father. My father came to Los Angeles California and stayed with his uncle, he worked in the fields on hot sunny days or even in the blistering cold. Those conditions are very hard to work in especially for my father's health because he has asthma. Sometimes my dad didn't have time to eat because he was just so busy trying to be able to make money , sometimes he say he would only have a piece of bread and milk the whole day . After my dad started to have more time living in the United States he got a job at Denny's as a bus boy. He said having multiple jobs was stressful because he had to do a lot because at the same time my father was also attending night school to learn and improve his English.

He always tried to do the best in life without being able to complain about the hard work , because he would always say “nothing comes easy” which is true. Just like my grandpa my dad was a hard worker he would help my grandpa in farming and agriculture when he came back to

Mexico . He managed goats , cows , horses , chickens , pigs , sounds like hard work being able to maintain all those animals especially all the expensive they would have to economically waste on in order for their farm animals to be in good shape. My father has always been a hard worker out of all his brothers he's been the most successful one because he has always been on top of the game and never slacked off and that's why I'm proud of my dad.

Later on my dad was able to his legal papers fixed and ended up finishing up High School in Mexico and coming to live to the United States to have a better life. Of course he would come every now and then to visit his family. Throughout his life my dad met my mom and ended up marrying her a year and a half later, my mom lived in Mexico which made it difficult for my parents because my dad would come and go back and forth to both countries. My dad would leave to California and come visit my mom and it wasn't till my mother was pregnant that my mother decided to move to to California with my father so they could give my brother a better life and education, a brighter future. My father's cousin helped my mother and 1 year old at the time brother cross the border. I can't ever imagine risking a child who is only 1 cross the border if it were me I'd wait until the child was a little older but the economy was so bad at the time that they had no choice. My father didn't want to be apart from his wife and son and wanted to be able to be there for them when they needed him but how was he going to if he was apart from them?. That's why that made my dad even more wants my mom and brother to come along with him. They had faith in god would help them and my uncle knew a way but of course it wasn't going to be easy.

My father already had legal papers but he crossed with my mom and brother through the mountains because he knew that it was dangerous and didn't want to leave they alone. My parents got to San Diego and stayed there for couple of days. My dad got offered a job by his

cousin telling him that he could be able to work for a landscaping business in San Jose Ca. my dad took the job which lead all 3 of them moving to the bay area where my godfather helped them renting them a little garage room to live in. While my father was working for a landscaping company he was able to get his own business licenses and created his own company landscaping business he was his own boss and now he has his own workers where he worked with them. My dad had a client who influenced him a lot and became good friends with him; his name was Mark whom helped him out a lot.

My dad was living in the United States for a long time which he already was able to become a U.S. Citizen since he had legal papers. My dad helped my mom become a resident and fixed her legal papers. 4 years later I was born in San Jose CA in Bascom Hospital which makes me proud of being a Mexican American even though I didn't struggle in coming to America I admire my parents for being able to give me this better life they once dreamed of and made come true. People from other countries try to find a good life for their kids but also don't understand how difficult it is risking their lives and how dangerous it could be. I really look up to my father because he did his best to give us a better life. I can't imagine my life without him , he's someone I look up to and my motivation in life. My father has always been a caring, hardworking man who helps out other people in need , he never denies someone who needs help. He's always there for his children and wife and wants what's best for us, he encourages us to continue our education because he wants us to get somewhere far in life not being able to depend of someone else in life and to become independent to be successful , make our own money so we wont go through what he did when he was young having to work at a low paid job where the weather conditions were just awful.

Being able to leave your homeland to be in another country isn't easy as it sounds, when you leave your homeland you're leaving your family behind, your life behind a whole part of you behind. Sometimes I think that the U.S Border Patrol doesn't realize the struggle that these immigrants are going through because they already have it all they didn't go through that challenge coming in the United States in look for money there were born here so they have nothing to lose. Why cant they let others live the American Dream and share it?. I planned on becoming border patrol when I was younger for San Diego bordering for Tijuana Mexico just to help others understand what it really is like but at the same time I changed my mind because I feel like if I'd be betraying my own heritage. I'm not saying that border patrol officers are mean or bad, I'm not saying that at all but I sometimes want them to be more understandive about it.

These people are struggling to get here for what? To be sent back? That's not fair, they're here to take the hard jobs, have you ever seen a white man working in the fields? No. of course not, you always see these immigrants doing all the hard work and getting paid so very little. And yet they treat them unequal and mistreat these people. There not here to take over your jobs, they're here just like everyone else, they're not here to be discriminated, they're just here to make a living just like you , me and everyone else in the country.

Just because a Latino guy is arrested, they highly assume that all Latinos are like that. I'm not complaining I'm just making a point because everyone judges that all are like that. I don't understand why a lot of people have a rage over Mexicans, there aren't only Mexicans living in this country there are plenty of more different nationalities here trying to have a better life here and what happens? They only turn against the Mexicans. We came here to have a good life. But sometimes others screw it up for others such as the drug smuggling going on, being transported to the United States which make them think that they're the ones bringing them which they have

nothing to do with it. That doesn't make immigrants stop trying crossing the border because of you come to think of it the United States is filled up to most Hispanic people , so why do they keep excluding them if that doesn't want to make them want to keep trying.

There are more Mexicans here today trying to cross the border every day, most of them make it and most of them sadly don't, or even worst they end up dying on their way because of the awful weather conditions or women getting raped and left there, or others being left behind. It's more difficult for people to cross the border now today because the U.S. Border has gotten a lot stricter about crossings. Mexico right now is dangerous and isn't a really safe place to be right now because of the drug dealers trying to take over, which give them more of the reason why people come over here for safety. I'm expressing my opinion and expressing myself. I come from a Mexican family who struggled life to come to the United States and I'm proud of being a part of them. I'm thankful for also being able to have a good life because of them and providing a good education. I'm going to become a successful Mexican American in life to be able to prove that we can do it.