



Manos de Dios, Hands of God Ministries

April 2018

*Providing host families for Native students
and advocating for LIFE*



Drelyn to graduate in May!

It has been four years since Drelyn answered our inquiry about leaving the Reservation schools and coming to Tucson to join her sister, Riscilla, in attending Desert Christian High School. "Yes, I will come!", she answered. Four host families (including us!), numerous teachers and staff, pastors and friends have poured into Drelyn to encourage her to fulfill her goal: to graduate from Desert Christian High School and to go on to college! Drelyn ultimately wants to attend ASU (in downtown Tempe, AZ) but she has enrolled at Northland Pioneer Community College (NPC) to begin her college classes. She plans to move back home and attend classes at the NPC campus on her Reservation and in Show Low. Drelyn was awarded a very prestigious scholarship from the Valley Foundation that will more than cover her first year's college expenses. What a nice honor! She can re-apply for the scholarship yearly with good grades. Please join us in praying for Drelyn. We know it will be a challenge to attend classes and study with the distraction of friends and others that are not going to school. She hopes to be involved with her church youth group, join a NPC sign language and drama club, and even begin a pro-life club at NPC. *You go, girl! We love you and will be praying for you!*



Drelyn will graduate from Desert Christian High School May 25th!

***"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths."***

Proverbs 3:5-6

Host families form a network of support!....by Lucy



Lucy Dennis Tina Ron Chris Rick Sharon Dan Eric

Naomi Drelyn Chaco Dayna Thearsa Nam Jennifer **

How do you describe a host parent??? guardian, mom, dad, chauffer, cook, coach, teacher, pastor, role-model, counselor, advocate, photographer.... plus way more!

Manos de Dios has been so blessed to partner with eleven (11!) host families for the five years girls from the White Mountain Apache Reservation have been attending Desert Christian Schools! These men and women, along with their children, have provided safe, loving, Christian homes for the girls and in reality have changed their lives forever! The families enjoy time together, share weekends and provide respite care! Many host parents continue to help out well after their term (as is demonstrated by Ron & Tina and Sharon & Dan <included in picture above>)! Praise the Lord for host families!!

**** The Hazelman family who hosted Drelyn this year are not shown here, but are very much appreciated!**

Drelyn's Senior year in photos!



Seniors at Desert Christian create a Senior Expo and present it 'professionally' at the end of the year. Drelyn chose to support the drama program at her school with her Senior Expo. She presented her project verbally and through video to a group of staff, parents and students.

(left) Dennis and Lucy plus Tina and Ron congratulated Drelyn on a job well-done!



Drelyn at Spring Formal! Beautiful!

Drelyn plans to major in business and journalism at NPC and then transfer to ASU. After she graduates she hopes to return to her Reservation to have a positive influence on her people with God's hope, grace and truth! ***May God bless you and guide you, Drelyn!***



Drelyn is still close friends with Chaco!



One more young lady coming from the Rez to go to school at Desert Christian High School!....by Lucy

I received a call at 6:30 am from Drelyn and Riscilla's grandpa Kenny. He said that his youngest daughter, Kelila or "KK" for short, would like to come to Tucson to go to Desert Christian High School (DCHS). He asked how we could go about getting her to attend there as Riscilla and Drelyn have. I breathed deeply, trying to listen to God while also knowing how difficult it has been to find host families for these girls. I explained the process and asked why KK wanted to come to Desert. Kenny said he would have her call me after school. At 3:15 pm I answered my phone to hear, "Hi Lucy! This is KK. My Dad said you would like to talk with me." I was immediately impressed with her pleasant voice and ability to express herself. KK explained that she would like to learn more about God and the Bible and attend a



Kelila "KK" will be a freshman in the fall

school that is based on God's principles. She added that she would like to have friends that love Jesus, too! As we talked she explained that things are difficult on the Reservation and it is harder and harder to resist the peer pressure. As she will be entering high school in the fall she thought this would be a good time to make a positive change and come to Tucson. "Would you help me?" she asked. I said, "Let's pray and ask God to show us a way!" After I hung up the phone Dennis and I prayed, asking God to show us if this is His will for KK. We know her parents as we have interacted with them since Drelyn and Riscilla were in our dorm at the mission school. We have seen KK on a few occasions including last year when she came to Tucson for Riscilla's graduation ceremony. We know and trust this family and love that KK wants to come to Desert!

Immediately, God began opening doors! The scholarship applications I completed for KK were accepted. DCHS has invited KK and her family for an interview with the school administration. DCHS has put in place new financial aid plus more music classes! (KK plays the violin and would love to continue learning!) AND a wonderful potential host family has expressed interest in hosting

KK! We will meet with them and pray! We are all waiting on God to show His will, His way for this precious young lady!

But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love Him"— 1 Cor 2:9 (ESV)

Growth and Blessings.....by Dennis



Riscilla @ NAU (via Instagram!)

This has been an exciting year for Manos de Dios (actually, Lucy and Dennis!) Riscilla is finishing her first year at NAU (Northern Arizona University) in which she did really well and did not get into any trouble! Way to go Riscilla! Next Drelyn, a senior at Desert Christian HS, is ready graduate, spread her wings and enter Northland Pioneer Community College (with classes in her hometown–Whiteriver). And a big high five to Drelyn for all she has accomplished!

A big “well-done” also goes out to Thearsa for finishing her freshman year at Desert Christian HS and the hard work and the sports activities she was involved in. Last but in no way least we have Naomi another one to ‘graduate’! As she has finished her time in middle school she is being promoted to Desert Christian HS! She also worked hard in school while playing on athletic teams! All these young ladies have had challenges this past year but they never gave up. Struggles were overcome, problems were faced and even though they sometimes were kicking and screaming on the way – they grew!

We are proud of them and will continue to love and pray for them plus help them as they face new challenges. Manos de Dios has been blessed with supporters who in many ways sponsor these students in the fine education they are receiving. We are all in this mission together and together we are accomplishing the calling Jesus has given us. Thank you, Lord!



Thearsa, Drelyn & Naomi

However, this is not the end of this year’s story. Another young lady from the White Mountain Apache Reservation has asked us if it would be possible for her to come to Tucson and attend Desert Christian HS. (She will be a freshman.) After a conversation with her and her family and prayer, it was decided to put this decision in the Lords' hands and see what He does with it. So far God has opened doors concerning the financial support we would need for her and the possibility of a host family. If the Lord's blessing is placed on her and her needs met, we will have another student attending Desert Christian HS!

We consider it a true blessing to be able to help make a difference in these young ladies’ lives academically, socially and spiritually. In many ways this experience is saving their lives!



Dayna (host sister), Naomi & Thearsa

But from everlasting to everlasting the LORD’s love is with those who fear Him, and His righteousness with their children’s children— Psalms 103:17

Then our sons in their youth will be like well-nurtured plants, and our daughters will be like pillars carved to adorn a palace. Psalms 144:12

All your children will be taught by the LORD, and great will be their peace. Isaiah 54:13

Alejandra accepted for Teletón intensive therapy program in Hermosillo!

When I answered my phone that day Margarita exclaimed (in Spanish), “Alejandra has been accepted by Teletón! I have been praying for this for 15 years!” I could hear the emotion in her voice as she explained that the maximum age children are accepted into this wonderful therapy program for disabled children in Mexico is 17 (Alejandra turned 17 in December!). This was Ale’s last chance and she was chosen as one of only 3 out 1500 applicants! As many of you know, Alejandra was affected by a tainted vaccination when she was 2- years-old and has been unable to eat (she is fed through a feeding tube) walk, speak or urinate/defecate on her own. This single mom has been lovingly caring for her daughter all these years. Doctors say that it is only because of Margarita’s concentrated care that Ale has lived this long!

One week every two months (for a year) Margarita and Alejandra travel by bus from Puerto Peñasco (Rocky Point) to Hermosillo. While there Ale receives 8 therapy sessions a day including pool sessions in warm water. Teletón



Margarita and Ale at therapy session in Teletón

doctors and therapists have had success with other children similar to Alejandra in teaching them to eat orally and to walk.

Margarita is guardedly optimistic and so grateful for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. She calls it a miracle that Ale was accepted AND that they have support from Dennis and Lucy plus Manos de Dios friends to undertake the expense of these trips.

Between trips to Hermosillo Margarita takes Ale through assigned therapy exercises daily. She also cleans homes and sells prepared meals to earn money for the extra expenses they incur traveling.

“¡Muchas gracias a Dios y Manos de Dios para esa oportunidad para mi hija, Alejandrita! ¡Dios les bendiga!- Margarita”

Thank you so much to God and Hand s of God ministry for this opportunity for my precious daughter, Alejandra! May God bless you!- Margarita

Contact Manos de Dios Ministry!

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Tax-deductible contributions may be sent to:

Manos de Dios, NFP

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AZ 85715 or made on our website:**

ManosdeDios.org



Margarita and Alejandra (age 17) in Puerto Peñasco, Mexico