



Manos de Dios, Hands of God Ministries

March/April 2017

Providing host families for Native students and advocating for LIFE



It's that time again...asking God for host families for 2017/2018 school year!



Drelyn will be a senior at Desert Christian High School!

Opportunities to grow our faith! Each spring as we look to the next school year, we lay before God the need for host families for the young ladies from the White Mountain Apache Reservation that will be continuing their education at Desert Christian Schools. This next year we will be needing only three host families, as Riscilla is graduating and will be attending NAU in the fall! Praise God for His awesome plan!

This school year we have learned first-hand what being a host family involves, as Drelyn has lived in our home for her junior year. Yes, room and board. Yes, transportation to and from school. But so much more!



Thearsa will be a freshman at Desert Christian High School!

And next year? We are simply laying this need for host families for Drelyn, Thearsa, and Naomi at God's feet. Our prayer is, *"Have your way in these girls' lives, Lord. Whatever is best for them, for new host families...and for us! Make Your will known, Lord Jesus!"* Dennis and I are willing to open our home again to one of the teens. We will need to be in Tucson as Dad's health is declining and he needs us more than ever. But, whatever is best for the girls is what we desire. And we know that God knows what the upcoming year will bring in regard to Dad's health. Thank you for joining us in praying for those special families that will love, nurture and raise up these precious young ladies in the coming year.

*Trusting in our ever faithful God,
Lucy*



Host family found!

Naomi will be in 8th grade at Desert Christian Middle School!

***"Behold, I am doing a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not
perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert."***

Isaiah 43:19 (ESV)

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Pro-Love Tucson continues to work to save babies' lives!....by Lucy



**Pro-Love Tucson volunteers:
Lucy, Kerri, Carlie, Jeanelle
(outside Tucson Women's Center,
Tucson's only abortion clinic)**



**Material used to fill gift bags
given out to clients going in to
either Tucson Women's Center
or Planned Parenthood clinic**

"Use us today, Lord, to save babies' lives. Soften hearts to the truth of LIFE in pre-born children. Allow us to speak to the women (and men) going into or out of the clinic today to share information about the options they have for their unplanned pregnancy and the loving support that is available to them. Lord Jesus, we're asking you to rebuke the enemy that wants to steal, kill and destroy with his lies. Replace these lies with Your truth of grace, love and good. May Your will be done here on earth in these lives TODAY, we pray. In the powerful name of Jesus! Amen!"

This sample prayer is the cry of our hearts as volunteers spend three-hour shifts outside Tucson Women's Center. It is difficult to engage the women (and men) as they drive into the medical complex. The office is a great distance away from the sidewalk that we, by law, must stand on. We try to speak with folks as they drive in or out of the center. We approach their vehicle with a smile and our gift bags, hoping they will roll down their window and allow us to introduce ourselves. We have encountered all different scenarios:

- Mothers (or Fathers) bringing their teenage daughter to the clinic for an ultra sound or abortion.
- A young lady alone coming for the necessary ultra sound 24 hours before a scheduled abortion.
- A group of college students accompanying their friend to get information about an abortion.
- A young lady and her boyfriend arriving for a surgical abortion appointment.
- A young lady leaving after taking the first of the two RU-486 abortion pills.

After a day of encounters and rejections we most

often don't know the results of our efforts. But, one day last week my friend, who is a prenatal nurse at a Tucson hospital, shared this story. A woman gave birth to a baby and a couple came to the hospital to adopt the baby. The mother shared that she had gone to Tucson Women's Center for an abortion, but some women talked with her outside. Instead she went to Hands of Hope (faith-based pregnancy center) and chose to continue the pregnancy and made a plan for adoption. Hands of Hope provided the help and support she needed. Praise God! Those women were Pro-Love Tucson volunteers and this baby is alive and in a loving home today! Praise God!

School is quickly drawing to a close...by Dennis

School is finally ending....That is the rallying cry for most of the students (including our girls) as they can't wait for the **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!**

For Drelyn and Riscilla the last few weeks have been a little hectic. There was the junior/senior Spring Formal held at Savoy Opera House (Lucy and I helped decorate the dining hall for dinner). And I must say that Riscilla (our senior) and Drelyn (our junior) were among the prettiest in the group – no prejudice, of course ☺!



Riscilla with her date, Christopher.

Riscilla is busy getting ready for graduation with preparing and sending out announcements, finding the right clothes to wear under her graduation gown, going on her Advanced Biology trip to San Diego (over Spring break), requesting the right dorm mate for next fall at NAU, and on and on. The last activity she will have as a senior at Desert Christian High School will be her senior class trip in June, when they will go to La Jolla, CA for five days. Then, the cord will be cut and her next step to adventure will be at NAU this August. No pressure, not scared, no way! Yea, sure!

Then there is Drelyn. She worked at the school's Spring play, "Room Service" as head of stage crew. There have been final projects and papers, preparation for her senior project and plans for her senior class schedule. She also ran for senior class president for next year (but lost). She is fully funded for her mission trip to Haiti scheduled for June 16-24th!

The pace may have slowed down a little for Thearsa and Naomi. Thearsa has attended meetings that will help her transfer from middle school to high school (yay, Thearsa!) and we can't forget the wrestling classes and wrestling meets she attends in her spare time. She still has to get ready for finals, and that is usually stressful for all students.

I think (but I have not asked) that Naomi has the least hectic schedule of all. She is simply moving up one grade (will be an 8th grader) without any fanfare Naomi sang a solo and was joined by Thearsa to sing a duet at the Desert Christian Spring Concert. (See photo below). Naomi has an amazingly mature singing voice.

We are praising God for a terrific host family that has stepped up for Naomi! Their daughter is in the same grade as well as plays flag football and softball with Naomi on the school teams. Their family has a garden, 15 chickens and a piano (hopefully, Naomi will be able to continue her piano lessons!). As a plus, this family lives in the same Tucson neighborhood Lucy and I live in! What a praise! Thank you, Lord, for your perfect provision!

The girls have worked hard, been diligent in their studies, overcome some difficulties, and matured in life and in their walk with Jesus. That is something we are proud of and we are blessed to be a part of that growth.

Well done, girls!!!!!



Riscilla and Drelyn (sisters) attended Spring Formal.



Naomi and Thearsa along with two other Middle School students sing solos in the Spring Concert.

Great programs for Native Students at NAU!

Riscilla is enrolled in a special four-day *Native Bridge to Success Program* held immediately before her fall semester at NAU. The *Native Bridge to Success Program* guides new Native American, Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian freshmen through the college transition process and provides an overview of the university community. Participants connect with key staff, faculty, and support services while meeting other students and building skills for success.

Students are also paired with a peer mentor and a Native American Student Services (NASS) staff member during the program and continue to receive mentoring throughout their first academic year.

Additional benefits of the program include:

- Early move-in to Fall residence hall
- A head start on building academic and technology skills
- Familiarity with campus community, class locations, and other key places
- Fun programs and activities

A special session for parents and guardians on the first day,

including a panel discussion and topics on how families can partner to ensure their student's success.

We are grateful for all the extra support available to Riscilla at NAU and pray she will make good, supportive connections her first year in college.



Peer mentors for the Native American Student Services Program at NAU

Praise and Prayer Requests

- Thank you, Lord, for allowing us to promote the need for host families in many churches in Tucson!
- Please, Lord, provide just the right host family for Drelyn and one for Thearsa for the upcoming school year.
- Thank you, Lord, for teaching and reminding us of YOUR principles for a healthy marriage through the "Indestructible Marriage" class held at our church. (For info go to <http://marriagetoday.com/>)
- We ask, Lord, for Your guidance as we care for Dad and for Your will to be done in the remainder of his earthly life. We praise You, Lord, that he is a man who loves You and follows You! Thank You for this opportunity to share a home together!
- We ask You, Lord, to bless all the Manos de Dios supporters and prayer partners. Thank you, God, for providing for all our needs!



Dennis and Drelyn participate in a run/walk

This is a challenging season!...by Lucy

God is using this season to work on me! I often don't realize my weaknesses until I am put under some stress. Stress comes about either when I am tired or frustrated, or put on the spot. On these occasions, my impatience flares up. Or I go into my controlling mode. Or I shut down and say, "I can't make any decisions right now!"

Having a 16 year-old (who comes from a totally different background and a painful childhood) in our home challenges my otherwise positive, joy-full attitude. Then, add an aging Father who needs help dealing with health issues. These factors assure that I am a woman on her knees before the Throne of Jesus on a regular basis. This is a good thing! I am seeing some of my weaknesses more clearly and humbly asking God to smooth out my rough edges. I'm asking for forgiveness regularly from my husband and Drelyn for impatience or a controlling spirit. I am prayerfully submitting to my husband's leadership as we make decisions about our future.

"For the GRACE of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age..."

Titus 2:11-12 (ESV) *EMPHASIS ADDED*

"Thank you, Lord, for working in me. Thank you for your GRACE! Change me by the power of Your Holy Spirit to be more like Your Son Jesus in my words, thoughts, and actions! Thank you for this challenging season. I praise You for who You are and the awesome plan You have for all of our lives: Dennis', Dad's, Drelyn's, and mine! Amen!"

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Tax-deductible contributions may be sent to:

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ManosdeDios.org



**Dennis, Drelyn, and Lucy before
Drelyn's Spring Formal**



**Lucy and Dennis play golf with Lucy's
brother, John, and 90-year-old Dad when
John and his family came to Tucson for
Spring break.**