



Manos de Dios, Hands of God Ministries

August 2017

Providing host families for Native students
and advocating for LIFE

**God provides wonderful
host families....AGAIN!**



Meet our special families!

Rick, Chris & Nam
(Thearsa's host family)

Kelley, Dave & Emily
(Drelyn's host family)

Eric & Jennifer (Lucy is between)
(Naomi's host parents)

Drelyn
Senior

Dayna
8th grade
(Naomi's host sister)

Thearsa
Junior

Naomi
8th grade

"Father God, we praise You! You are our great PROVIDER! You have raised up three wonderful families to house, care for and mentor these special girls: Drelyn, Thearsa and Naomi this school year. Thank You so much for Your faithfulness! Your timing, provision and wisdom is perfect! We will testify of Your goodness forever!"

Dennis & Lucy, Manos de Dios

Those who wait for the Lord will not be put to shame!...by Lucy

In August 2017. God had beautifully provided two



**Naomi & Dayna play on
Desert Christian Middle
School's flag football
team**

wonderful host families! Naomi's family included Dayna, a sibling Naomi's same age and grade at Desert Christian Middle School. Dayna loves sports and is an encouragement to Naomi to stay fit and active. Host dad, Eric, coaches the girls on a competitive softball team. The first day Naomi moved in, they provided her with catcher's gear and she began training to be a catcher for the team!



Naomi, Jennifer, Eric and Dayna

Theirs is a busy household with two practices a day (softball and flag football), meals and homework! We praise God for this family that provides a loving, active, Christ-centered home for Naomi!

Thearsa's host family came to us this summer offering a cross-cultural home full of love and activity. Nam, Thearsa's host mom was born in South Korea and moved to the US in 1991. She became a Christ-follower and later moved to Sierra Vista, AZ, where she met and married Rick. They have one son, Chris, who is a sophomore at Catalina Foothills High School. Chris is an athlete, playing football, basketball, tennis and doing some wrestling. Thearsa fits right in with her love for athletics! Thearsa's room in their home even has a multi-station weight set for the two teens to work out on! Thank you, Lord, for this family that provides love, stability and support for Thearsa!

As the start of school drew closer, we PRAYED hard! I continued to pray Isaiah 49:23b

"Then you will know that I am the Lord; those who wait for Me shall not be put to



**Emily & Drelyn
first day of senior year**

shame."* Yes, Lord, do not let Drelyn, us, or her family be put to shame as we wait for You! We believe you have a plan for Drelyn to be here at Desert Christian HS for her senior year. You have provided scholarships and she is all registered! I then read the first part of the verse. It says, ***"Kings shall be your foster fathers and their queens your nursing mothers." Yes, Lord! We believe you will provide a King and Queen for Drelyn as you have for the other girls. We are waiting for you, Lord!**

The THURSDAY before the start of school Kelley and Dave stepped up to host Drelyn! Their daughter, Emily, is a senior at Desert and can drive Drelyn to school with her! Kelley is a prayer warrior and leads the parents' prayer group at the high school. Dave is an engineer and man of God. THANK YOU, Lord, for your perfect provision for Drelyn! This is a perfect

home for her. Rules apply to all 'teen girls' in this home and Drelyn feels a part of a family. Kelley and Dave have raised two other teen girls and have a handle on this parenting!

Riscilla begins college at Northern Arizona University-NAU!....by Lucy



Riscilla and Lucy in Riscilla's dorm room at NAU (still getting organized!)

Riscilla excitedly showed us her new “home” in the dorm at NAU. She had begun moving in earlier that week during the “Bridges for Native American Students” program. We brought additional needed items: a microwave (NAU provides a fridge in each room), a memory foam mattress pad, power strip, wellness kit (all sorts of cold and flu meds), and “Command” hooks to stick on the brick walls to hang up anything and everything (from wall hangings to mini-lights to towels and backpacks.) She also introduced us to her roommate, Rosemma (pronounced Rose-Emma.) The girls were delighted to announce, “We like each other and are getting along great!” Rosemma is from Minnesota and of the Dakota tribe. She is majoring in Indigenous Studies.

We took Riscilla out for lunch and heard all about what she had learned so far about classes and campus. She told us about the peer mentor and staff mentor she has met and likes very much. She and I visited the Financial Aid office to learn exactly where she stood with scholarships and monies owed. They recommended some other sources of scholarships and Riscilla promised to get online and apply. We then went to the bookstore to purchase and *rent* books for this semester. (Renting is such a cost-saver!) Target was our last stop to stock up on school supplies and snacks for their room.

The next day I accompanied Riscilla to the Student Involvement Fair where she met great people from all types of clubs on campus. We talked with the Chi Alpha Christian ministry folks and they invited her to many of the get-to-know you activities. (I hope she follows up!) She also learned about a Native American club and Young Health Professionals club. She can be as involved as she cares to be!

Later Riscilla called us to let us know that NAU awarded her a scholarship for a 14-meal-a-week meal ticket! Wow! We are all so grateful for that money-saving gift! We had talked and prayed about her taking on a part-time job, but decided it would be best for her to focus on her classes and get a good start on academics. So, she needs \$350 more for dorm costs this semester and more for next semester. Bring on those scholarships/donations!

Welcome to college life!



Riscilla with roommate, Rosemma



Riscilla outside NAU's Native American Cultural Center

Are we ready for new chapters in our lives?....by Dennis

The longer we live, the more chapters we write in the book of our life. As for me, some of those chapters I was very unprepared for but somehow I survived, while others I suffered sad consequences and I still feel the pain.

With this thought in mind, for the past four years Lucy and I have been trying to help prepare Riscilla for this new chapter in her life which included adulthood as she took up residence in her new dorm room at Northern Arizona University.

Is she ready for this transition? Did we (and the host families she lived with for the past four years) teach her the right things, give her the best advice, and act as good role models for her to emulate? These are questions that



Riscilla, Dennis and Grandpa (as the girls call him) enjoy lunch at Diablo Burger in Flagstaff.

were going through my mind as we sat having lunch Friday before saying good bye and leaving her to start the next chapter in her life. I pray that she is prepared enough to handle the situations that come up and mature enough to ask for help when it is needed. Most importantly, we pray that she has grown stronger in her walk with the Lord and will rely on the Holy Spirit for guidance, wisdom and direction. We have turned her over to God and NAU and pray for the best.

When I look back at her past, I am amazed that she has come so far and has done so well. I know she won't mind if I tell a little of her past and what her life was like. This information will give you a little insight into the struggles she has faced in her short 18 years.

The chapters in her life included not knowing her father and then at the age of 14 finding out that he was the drug addict living next door for the past number of years (and they have still never spoken to each other.) She has been in boarding schools from the 3rd grade and only spent the summers at home with her mother and siblings. The boarding school's academic program was at least two years behind average, and that also included a lack of growth in social skills. And to make matters worse, weekends and summers spent on the Rez exposed her to alcoholism, drug addiction, sexual activity, and delinquency. And I am talking about teenage life! Girls got pregnant as early as 13-years-old and boys were in gangs by the time they were in middle school.

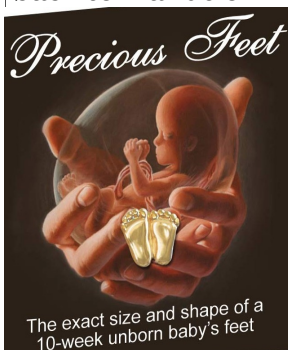
However, by the grace and blessings of God and determination on her part to overcome these obstacles and make something of herself, she has stayed clean, sober, and chaste. She has matured nicely and has become a sensitive, caring, God-loving young lady. When she came to Tucson four years ago she was tested and scored 35% academically and two years behind in reading comprehension. Now she has graduated from Desert Christian with a 3.5 grade point average, enrolled at NAU and plans on studying pediatric nursing! Way to go Riscilla!

Is she ready for this new chapter in her life? We think so. Even though she has been praised and congratulated by many, we and her three host families (Rena, Ryan and Dori, and Ron and Tina) have worked with her and she has not let the accolades go to her head. We have reminded her, and she is aware, that she will make mistakes and there will be hardships, challenges and failures in this new chapter of her life. BUT, they are nothing that can't be overcome and corrected with the help of Jesus and those who love her, who are many.

This has always been one of Riscilla's favorite passages...Praying that she will claim it and walk in it NOW! "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:11-3 (ESV)

Volunteer teams from **Pro-Love Tucson** stand on the sidewalk outside of Tucson Women's Center (TWC) every week. We pray that people driving in or out of the clinic for services will stop to talk with us. If they do, we dialog with them about why they are there and try to determine what stress in their life is causing them to consider aborting their baby. It is difficult. Many clients don't stop. Some stop and politely listen but refuse our gift bags. Others are truly interested and open to the care, options and helpful resources we offer. Occasionally we have joyous encounters like the two we experienced last week. Below is a portion of my weekly report....

"A", a young lady leaving TWC stopped and when I asked if she was making a pregnancy decision she responded, **"Yes, and I'm keeping my baby!"** "Praise God!" I blurted out! I found out that "A" is eleven weeks pregnant and knows about Hands of Hope (the local crisis pregnancy center we refer to.) She had been there before just after a miscarriage. I congratulated her on her pregnancy and her decision! I encouraged her to go back to Hands of Hope to receive any support she might need. I had my "precious feet"* pin on and pointed out that her baby's feet were about the size of my pin. She was delighted. When I told her we would be praying for her, she asked my name and grabbed my hand to thank me. What a wonderful response! We were so proud of her for withstanding any pressure to make an abortion decision!



Then, "D" pulled her car up to us on the sidewalk. She asked if we were there talking with people outside the abortion clinic. "Yes," was Elizabeth's and my response. With tears in her eyes she said, **"Because of you my baby is alive today! I went to this abortion clinic but after speaking with one of you, I decided against the abortion and chose to give life to my baby! And there he is in the back seat!"** We moved around the vehicle to view the most beautiful, approximately 10-month-old boy in his car seat! We praised God together and thanked her for sharing her story with us. (I was so caught off guard and emotional that I didn't ask for her contact information, but will do that NEXT TIME!)

"Thank you God, for two encouraging encounters today! You are at work, even when we can't see You! Praise You for the lives of these two babies and their families!"

Contact Manos de Dios Ministry!

520.404.5045 (Lucy: voice or text)

520.245.2039 (Dennis: voice)

GetInvolved@ManosdeDios.org

Tax-deductible contributions may be sent to:

Manos de Dios, NFP

2914 N Indian Ruins Road, Tucson

AZ 85715 or made on our website:

ManosdeDios.org



**Dennis,
Lucy
and Dad
worship
at a
local
church
while on
vacation
in
Coronado,
California
in
July**

* The "Precious Feet" lapel pin is the exact size and shape of an unborn baby's feet at 10 weeks after conception. In 1974 Virginia and Ellis Evers ran across a full page ad in their local newspaper in San Diego, California. Prominent in the ad was a picture of the tiny feet of a ten week old unborn baby held between a man's fingers and thumb. Inspired by the remarkable photo, Virginia Evers felt these little feet would be the ideal Pro-Life symbol. With love and dedication for the unborn, Virginia designed the "Precious Feet" lapel pin. To purchase Precious Feet lapel pins and other pro-life materials contact HeritageHouse76: www.HH76.com or call 800-858-3040 in Snowflake, Arizona.