



Viridiana Romero

Viridiana's dream is to become a Registered Nurse and then complete an MSN Program to expand her scope of practice in emergency and trauma medicine as a Nurse Practitioner. After marrying someone she thought was the man of her dreams, Viridiana found herself in a relationship where her husband controlled every move she made and physically abused her. She lost her sense of self and gave up her dreams, job, friends and family. She reached a major turning point when one day her oldest daughter noticed a bruise on her leg and she found herself lying to her daughter as to how it happened. Wanting to be a better

role model for her children she made the bold decision to leave her husband, taking her children and all that would fit in her car. After years of family counseling, she rebuilt her self-esteem and returned to her goal of becoming a nurse. Currently, she is in the Bachelor of Science in nursing program at National University. The personal and financial hardships she has endured, motivate her to become a better mother and role model to her five children and to never give up on her dreams.



Michelle Gutierrez

Michelle's dream is to become a physician in the field of Family Practice and to ultimately work with NGO's who work in countries where the medical need is greatest. Michelle's life challenges began at an early age when her parents divorced and her mother turned to drugs for comfort, leaving her to have to care for herself and her younger sisters. As a teenager she became a mother herself, then married and found herself in a domestic violence situation. She was forced to leave her children with their father. This combined with emotional and physical damage from her childhood, led her into a life of

depression and drugs. Nine years ago she quit her addiction and returned to school in 2014. Last year her daughter made her a grandmother and Michelle is now raising her granddaughter on her own. Michelle is determined to overcome these challenges and obstacles to stay in school. She is currently studying Social and Behavioral Sciences at San Diego City College and she plans to transfer to UCSD to obtain her Bachelor's Degree in Public Health and eventually apply for medical school.