

He turned his life around at 16...

It was a snowy day, my youngest had just been born. With my family all around me, I couldn't be a happier mother. However, the face of my oldest told a different story. My husband immediately dismissed my concern, changing the subject. The next day my fears were confirmed when my husband told me our oldest had told him that he was going to be a father.

{ He was fifteen }

He was fifteen.

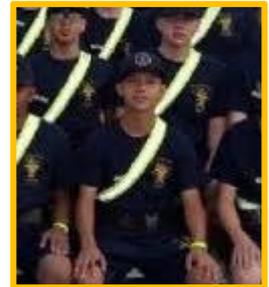
{ "I might be a father..." } I returned home with my newborn, happy and worried at the same time. The look on the face of my oldest was one of worry, guilt and dismay. His eyes were glassy and they immediately ran to the floor after meeting my gaze. "What's the matter?" I said. No reply. "No, there is something, your father told me" I insisted. He still did not reply. "Please...." was my last effort. Without lifting his head he started to say, "I might be a father... I want to drop out of school."

He was fifteen.

My heart sank. Those few seconds of silence seemed like an eternity before I could respond. "It will be okay," though I really didn't know if it would be. I went to Voces asking for help. I don't speak English and didn't know much about my community resources for problems like this.

It will be okay...

With the support of Voces, I was able to locate a local youth program focused on helping with life and leadership skills, as well as how to prioritize life goals, without losing focus on education. Voces assisted me with filling out paperwork for registration and orientation, facilitating phone interpretation that continues even today, providing me with an interpreter through their Language Access Program so I could understand the program on-site, as well as helping me understand the constant Facebook updates so I know when we can visit him throughout the course of the program. It's been a relief to know that any and all language barriers along the way won't hold us back.



Now 16, he has turned his life around and wants to finish school, follow his dream of becoming a marine, one day being a great dad.

- ***Voces has had an incredible impact on my son and my family, please continue to support families like my own who benefit from the services that Voces provides by clicking through to [purchase or donate a ticket to Sabor Latino](#).*** – Marisol Segovia

