

In her words

Project Gabriel mother shares her GEMS journey

My name is Susana Toral, and I am one of three women who graduated from the GEMS Academy this past year. I would like to tell you a little bit about myself and my journey into GEMS.

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GEMS has been an extraordinary source of help and peace for me and my son, Julian. I was introduced to GEMS in the summer of 2013 while I was pregnant and felt all alone; my mother, Telma DeToral, was actually preparing to be a Gabriel Angel, without knowing the truth I was hiding. When she found out I was expecting, she realized that I needed help through my pregnancy. She connected me with Ingrid Meyer, CPLC's Gabriel Angel Coordinator, and that is where it all began.

I call this program my rock. To me, this isn't just about getting a scholarship. It is more than that. GEMS is a group who supports me, who helps me stay strong in God and guides me through the roughest paths. With my eyes on God, I will always be full of hope and faith. In this group I only see loving ladies who have shown their affection to my son and me. They are wise, smart, fun, and caring, but they are also a fountain of resources, knowledge and wisdom.

What I love most about the group is the way they pamper us mothers. I also love the "Soulmate" segment which teaches us how to find a godly man to love and cherish us and tells us about our dignity as daughters of God. Someday, if I have a daughter, this is exactly what I would like for her to listen to when she becomes a teen.

Carolina is an amazing counselor and I love the way she mentors me and helps me to appreciate and value myself. Elizabeth, Marilyn, and everyone else on the GEMS team are all very friendly and inspire good thoughts and trust. Even though I am happy to graduate, somehow I don't want to leave GEMS. I wish I could have these ladies with me forever.



With this scholarship I plan to enroll in school to learn how to play an instrument or maybe even do some theater! I would also like to learn how to do some public speaking to help me with my new job.

I appreciate having this opportunity to share my love for GEMS.

Thank you to my Mom; thank you, Ingrid; thank you, Carolina; thank you who support the CPLC; and God bless you, everyone!