



Community and Shelter Assistance Corp (dba CASA of Oregon)

Sister Adele Scholarship Fund Open Application Process

Sister Adele Scholarship

Since 2001, CASA of Oregon has been offering the Sister Adele scholarship to students from farmworker families who have demonstrated financial need as well as a desire to progress as individuals. Guadalupe "Lupe" Diaz is one such example of a determined mother and student who grew up in the town of Milton Freewater.

Guadalupe's story - Originally from Michoacan Mexico, Lupe arrived in Milton Freewater in the spring of 1998. A decade later, Lupe learned of the Sister Adele Scholarship through her university's migrant education program. At the time, Lupe was a junior at Oregon State University in Corvallis. Lupe decided to apply. Lupe recalls, "As a child, I watched my father go to work in the orchards picking apples, cherries, and other seasonal fruits while my mom would work at the local packing houses. They worked very hard to get me through school."

Prior to submitting the scholarship application, Lupe was struggling with two competing priorities: continuing her undergraduate studies and dedicating more time to raising her young daughter. "I was really struggling with trying to be a good mom and a good student," Lupe recalls.

Nonetheless, Lupe followed through with her Sister Adele application and was grateful when she received notification that she had been selected to receive a scholarship. Lupe recalls that aside from the financial assistance she received, the emotional reward was far greater. She recalls that receiving the award validated her decision to stay in school while raising her young daughter. In Lupe's words, "I was very happy that CASA staff believed in me. I was confident that I could keep going to school and that I did belong in college."

In addition to being a mom, a first generation college graduate, and a current Ph.D candidate at Oregon State University, Lupe is also a proud daughter. From the day she arrived in Milton Freewater, her dad emphasized attending mass at St. Francis of Assisi Parish every Sunday and perfect school attendance. Both of her parents encouraged her to get her high school diploma, which she did from **McLoughlin High School (class of 2004)**. And it all started, as Lupe recounts, "the day dad walked with me to the Milton Freewater Public Library and signed the forms for me to get my first library card. I'll never forget that day."



[Guadalupe Diaz with daughter Lucero]

How to apply

CASA of Oregon staff will be receiving applications for the Sister Adele Scholarship Fund now through **April 17th 2015**.

There is no application fee to apply. Applicants must submit a complete Sister Adele Scholarship application and provide the required accompanying documents. Applications may be downloaded from www.casaoforegon.org/scholarships.

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