



Computers for Youth

2009 Parent of the Year Speech

Kathleen Ruiz

nominating her mother, Martina Ruiz

The person that I nominate for the parent of the year is my mom Martina Ruiz. My mom has always been there for me when I needed her. One of her favorite quotes is, "You can be whatever you want to be." My mom placed that quote on the ceiling of my room and every night I thought about what I would like to be when I grow up.

One thing that I like about my mom is that I can trust her to be my diary. I love her so much and she is also one of the strongest women I have ever met in my entire life. When my sister was born prematurely my mother was in a coma for 29 hours and I couldn't sleep or eat because I was scared that my mom might not end up being here in the world with me. I am proud of my mom for surviving and for so much more. I am proud of my mom and that's why I am nominating her.

"Why do they give away free computers?" That was the first thing that popped into my head when I heard about CFY's program. When my mom and I went to the CFY workshop to learn how to use the computer we would then take home, there was a lady from CFY who said, "We provide computers to families because we want students to improve in the subjects that they need help with," that's when I knew I was going to have fun using this computer.

At the workshop, my mom and I learned that even though she doesn't understand English very well, we can still bond as a family and be able to play educational games. If she doesn't understand them, I can teach her how to play. In the workshop they also showed us about this newspaper website where we can learn what's happening in our home country.

I loved that we were able to say something without anybody making fun of us. One of the parents asked a question about the computer that we had already gone over three times. No one was rude and everyone waited for the answer without getting mad. That allowed me to feel comfortable around everyone.

The first thing I did when I got my computer home was to plug everything together. On our CFY computer my mom and I help each other learn new things. When we play "Real Lives" she always tells me the history of a country so that I would know what's important in certain countries.

Something I taught my mom on the computer is how to make her own email so she can chat with her friends. The first time I taught her how to do that it was really hard because she didn't know how to use the mouse. Now she is an expert. When people say that kids are always on their email I disagree because my mom is on her email 24/7.

The good thing about having this computer is if I'm failing in a class subject I can count on the games to help improve my skills. I can do research easier on the internet and having Microsoft helps me type my notes.

My CFY home computer has really helped me and my family learn together, I can now express myself freely when I don't feel comfortable with something. Also, I feel that when my mom and I work together we are unstoppable. The computer has bonded my family together. I believe that if my family bonds we can make it through anything.

My mom deserves the CFY parent of the year award because she inspires me. She always tells me "I believe in you. You are my daughter and I love you with all my heart. You and your sister motivate me to wake up every day and see you. Without you I am nothing. I love you!" Those words always run through my mind.

My mom is brave, loving, caring and the most beautiful woman I know. I love you, mom. 🍷

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