A year ago, my daughter entered Valencia Campus in the Giraffe room, and I am really happy with this center. The teachers, in general, are very friendly and respectful. They are always attentive, greet us, ask how we are doing, and inquire about how my daughter feels. This makes us feel like part of a family, and it’s evident that they genuinely care for the children. I highly recommend the center to others as well. Shayleen is a very special person. She is always helping people in a thousand different ways with resources and information. She keeps a close eye on all the children, and my daughter always asks where Shayleen is. When she doesn’t see her, she gets sad. Shayleen shows love and care for the kids, which is why they are so fond of her. She is more than an excellent person; she has a heart of gold. I appreciate her greatly and admire her. She has been a great inspiration for me, providing moral support and helping me more than you can imagine. She showed me how I could start growing professionally and have a better future. She is providing a lot of support, as is MNC with the books, etc. I am currently working, and it’s challenging for me because I have very little support from anyone. I have my two young children and a long road ahead, but I know that with the help of God and MNC, I will move forward because they haven’t left me alone. For example, a few months ago, I had a small surgery on my foot, and the teachers and Shayleen were there for me. They were flexible with my daughter’s schedule and I appreciate that a lot. I hope that my story can inspire many women, especially single mothers who don’t have family support. By fighting hard and working diligently, we can move forward.
Sonia Ramirez, mother of two children faced her fair share of challenges. Working tirelessly as a cleaner and facing limited financial support from the children’s father, she could have easily succumbed to the difficulties that life presented her. However, she embraced every opportunity MNC offered to better herself and her family’s life. Over the past year, Sonia had become an active participant in our community. She engaged in various aspects of our programs, especially the virtual Parent Meetings. Despite the constraints of her schedule, she consistently joined in on workshops, displaying her eagerness to learn and grow. One highlight was her successful completion of the ‘Abriendo Puertas’ workshop, a testament to her fervor for personal growth and her commitment to being the best parent she could be.

Sonia expressed a keen interest in pursuing courses related to Early Child Development with the hopes of one day working for MNC. Encouraged by Valencia’s Family Services Specialist (FSS), Sonia enrolled at City College to pursue Early Child Development courses, taking a transformative step forward. Her classes started on August 16, 2023. Sonia’s commitment didn’t stop there. Recognizing the value of real-world involvement, she aspired to volunteer within our classrooms. Through coordinated efforts, Sonia is now able to volunteer at Valencia Campus.

As an experienced FSS, I recognized the importance of providing resources to empower Sonia’s pursuit of knowledge. I shared Sonia’s story with Sara Briseño, Valencia’s Mental Health Consultant, and through the partnerships with Instituto La Raza, we secured a gift card of $100.00 to alleviate the financial burden of educational costs. Moreover, our MNC Management team extended their hand to ensure Sonia’s success with the purchases of materials for her studies. Through it all, Sonia’s story exemplifies the transformative impact of determination, community, and educational empowerment.

As her narrative continues to evolve, I’m reminded that every individual possesses the potential to rise above circumstances, and with the right support, they can achieve greatness beyond their wildest aspirations.

MNC…Inspiring Success.

SHAYLEEN QUINONES
FAMILY SERVICES SPECIALIST