

## How My Life Changed...

Hello, my name is Yureni Garcia. I'm a student at Foothills High School. No teenager thinks they are going to get pregnant early in life, but it happened to me. Now I'm a mother to a beautiful girl named Suky. My life as a teenager was the best. When I found out that I was pregnant I was petrified. As time passed, my baby was born and she changed my life.

My life was like any other teenager's; I went to school, then went home or hung out with my friends. My only responsibilities were to do my homework and my chores. My friends and I couldn't wait until the weekends because that meant time to party and forget about everything that was going on at home. At a party, I met this guy. He was so cute and we exchanged numbers. After two weeks we started going out. He was so sweet. My mom liked him, but my sister didn't. At the time, I thought my life was perfect and there was nothing that could change that, but there was.

When I found out I was pregnant I didn't know what to do. I mean, I had just started dating my boyfriend. It was nothing serious, but it just happened. I should have known better and taken care of myself. The day I found out I was pregnant I called him. I couldn't stop crying, and I told him that I was expecting a baby. He said, "Don't worry. Everything is going to be fine." After I told my boyfriend, I knew I had to tell my mom but I was so scared. My mom got home from work and I told her that we needed to talk. Before I even got a word out she exclaimed, "You're pregnant!" I just started to cry and she also started weeping. We had a talk and after that she was never the same. Well nothing was; my life was over, I thought. I started to have problems with my boyfriend because he didn't help me. All he wanted to do was go out

and party. One night, we got in a big argument and I told him that I was done. I didn't want to go through what my mom went through with my dad, and he left.

Time went on and I went into labor. The pain was so intense. I couldn't take it, so I got the epidural and that took the pain away. My labor was difficult because I took a lot of time to dilate and my baby had a bowel movement inside of me. They told me that if I wanted I could have a normal birth, but my baby was going to have birth defects. I was so scared and, on top of that, my mom wasn't there. I had an emergency C-section. On July 13, 2010, at 5:30 a.m. a gorgeous baby girl named Suky was born. By that time, I was a single mother with no experience and no money to support her, but what I did have was lots of love for her. It was hard but I knew I had to make something of myself not just for me but for my baby.

One of my friends told me about Foothills High School. She told me that they had a daycare, so that I could go to school and see my baby. The next day we went and I started that same day. The teachers that work there have helped me a lot. I am so happy that schools like Foothills High School exist. This program allows me to work at my own pace with all the resources I need to get my work done. I also enjoy the friendships I have made with other teen parents at Foothills. We can relate with each other's situations and give each other advice.

I never thought I would get pregnant at a young age, but I've learned to make the best of my situation. My life as a teen mom is difficult because it is full of responsibilities that I didn't have before. I need help financially and someone to lean on for emotional support. Yet, I know that God will never allow me to go through something I cannot handle. We don't need my daughter's father in our lives. My mom moved on with her life without my dad, and I know I

can do it, too. Being a teen mom is a roller-coaster, but at the end of the day, when I see Suky everything is worth it. I love seeing a smile on her face every day. That means I am doing a good job being the best mom I can be.