

**Testimony of
Diana de Leon
Mary's Center Participant**

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

11:00 – 12:00

**COMMITTEE ON AGING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
District of Columbia
City Council**

Diana: esmedav123@hotmail.com

Good morning, my name is Diana de Leon. I am Mary's Center patient since 2005 when I arrived from Guatemala. I was 5 months pregnant. I came to join my husband and even though I was happy to be with him again, it was not easy to start a new life in a new country, without knowing the language and the system. Besides, I didn't know anything about motherhood and the arrival of a baby was a total new experience.

Everything seemed so difficult and out of my hands but Mary's Center showed me the way, and still does.

From Mary's Center I've received more than I would ever expect. It is a one-stop shop where I've been able to benefit from the medical services as well as the social and educational services.

At Mary's Center I receive prenatal care for both of my children, David who will turn 5 in September and this one, who will be with us in June. My son receives all of his immunizations and medical care, and the early childhood program prepared him to go to school while I was attending their English classes as part of their family literacy program. I still don't feel completely comfortable speaking in English but soon I will be able to do it and At the prenatal classes, I've learn important information about the arrival of my babies and how to be prepared for motherhood. The family support workers help mare always willing to help and I even receive home visitation receive the support from the family support workers

If you ask for a good place to shop for services, I would tell you that Mary's Center is the one. Desde el 2005 cuando embarazada de David. Vino de Guatemala 5 meses de embarazo, tenia doctor y cuando vino no sabia por donde y suegra la refirió a mc. Esposo se quedo vendiendo cosas y sola. El ya vivía aquí. Mc sin saber nada y comenzó cuidado prenatal. Vino a clases prenatales como no experiencia vino y así aprendió a darse cuenta como era el proceso del embarazo y le empezaron a dar información de padres como criar hijo, wic. Clases para ingles. Intermedio y luego se fue. Hasta el 11 en guate y aquí GED para terminar por la edad. Hizo el GED. Dos anos y lo saco en uno. Kemeka iba a casa porque aceptaba todo son los que mas le ha gustado. No sabia como papeles, idioma, overwhelming, venia y me explicaban y la acompanaban a ultrasonido la guiaron con todo. Ahora con Laura. Embarazada ahora. David cumple 5 en septiembre el 19. Embarazada y nace el junio 3. Es niño. Aquí cuidado prenatal, clases prenatales, cuando nazca clases para seguir. El nino viene, wic, home visiting. Que pasaría: no tendría muchas ayudas y no sabría a donde ir. Uno se queda sin nada. Si cortaran programas, no sabia que hacer. Vivo next door. Todo mas facil. !