



Growing my Dreams

My name is Annahi Garza and I am a daughter of migrant farm working parents. My two older sisters, my parents, and I have struggled throughout our whole lives being a farm labor worker. Thankfully, we have gotten through it together. Our whole life has consisted of many challenges for myself and my family.

Being a migrant high school student was never easy. The high school I attended in North Dakota and the one in Texas had different degree plans interfering with my education. As a migrant, summer school has been a great impact for me. Summer school would allow my sisters and I to recover from credit loss. There were days that I couldn't attend summer school, because I had to work in the fields. One of my dreams as a kid was to play in a team, I've never had the opportunity to play sports because of migrating to and from North Dakota. I wish children of farm workers like myself didn't have to go through this. We have worked many crops from Sugar Beets, Beans, Potato, and Wheat fields. Summer days meant waking up at the crack of dawn, working in the fields and having to withstand the mosquitoes and sun in our faces. All the pain and aches from walking and bending was and will always be the worst days of my life. What makes working in the fields "bearable" is knowing that I am financially helping with all of our family expenses. My mother always tells me, "Get an education so you will never have to work in the fields again!" She is my motivation for wanting to get educated and fulfill my dreams to have a true career. My parents will always be my motivation, because they work so hard to give us what we need. My mother is the strongest person I know, in November 2017 she was diagnosed with Colorectal Cancer. When it was time to migrate to North Dakota, she had to stay in Texas because she was receiving chemotherapy. I still had to work in the fields with my Aunt, while my mom was fighting for her life.

Being a child of a farmworker is not easy. Sometimes I feel discriminated because I work so hard, not only in school, but in anything I do. I feel people judge me for what I look like and not for what I know. Migrating is something we don't choose to do but must do to survive financially. I hope I can be a role model to the younger generation and hope that one day my story will be heard. My wish for my family is to be stable enough for us not to be migrating every year.

I want to thank my parents for encouraging me in everyday life. My biggest dream is to one day be a great scientist. After graduation, I want to say with my head held high, "I did it, I don't have to work farm work anymore!"

