

Story of My Life

By: Darsaleen Elias

Growing up I never knew that life is filled with struggles and pain. I used to think it was all fun and games, never really knew the struggle because I was so used to getting things my way. I faced three stages in my life to finally know who I really am. The first stage was life before becoming a parent. I was always out with friends doing things we want to do. Along the way I met up with a person that I gave my all to. This person made me feel as if I was dreaming; he gave me feelings that I never knew I had. Parents never approve of him but I thought he was just right. I disobeyed my parents and got pregnant. This would be stage two, becoming a parent. Being a parent isn't easy as we think. We have to make so many sacrifices and changes. Every time I look into my kids' eyes I know for sure I had to be a better person. One day the father of my kids left. It felt like hell when the person that said they would always be there for you disappears. I was sitting there wondering where did I go wrong, or how was I not good enough. I was always hiding my pain from my kids because just like every other parent, we just want the best for our children. Days I act like I'm happy, but during the night, my pillow was always catching my tears. I was going through so much until one day a lady came up and asked if I needed help. Although I am a person that never asks for help, I tried to change that mindset because we are all strong but sometimes you do need help from others. She took me in and this is where stage three happens. This person brought me back up on my feet. I started to progress more in school, back to being that overachiever and then I finally realized that even if you hit rock bottom, it's really your choice to get back up or stay down. Hitting rock bottom taught me so many things in life and I'm actually thankful I hit rock bottom, because if I hadn't I wouldn't be who I am today. I may not trust easily anymore but at least I became a better person by choosing to get back up on my feet. She taught me so many life skills and also my worth. I highly thank everyone from Sanctuary, Inc. for helping find myself. No matter what situation you're in, never be afraid to ask for help because sometimes you need someone to remind

who you really are. Never give up and just push forward because there is no better you and yourself. I am now trying to finish school, find a job, a home for my small family, and appreciate and love myself. There may be times when you feel like the whole world is crashing down on you but keep in mind it's all temporary. I got my feet down, ten toes down and head held high because there is nothing better than a broken person finding their way back home. If I went through my worst and got back so can you, so believe in yourself and keep striving high.