



Tri-Valley

Opportunity Council, Inc.

Employee Spotlight

Sandra Gonzalez

Data Processor
Sleepy Eye, MN

What's your name? Sandra Gonzalez

What's your title and location at Tri-Valley? I'm the Data Processor at the Sleepy Eye center.

What's your favorite thing about working in your position? Besides all the data I collect, it's the daily interactions I am able to have with the families and staff at our center.

Before working at Tri-Valley, what was the most unusual or interesting job you've ever had? I would say being an inventory specialist and collecting all the data entry for an auto parts shop in San Marcos, TX at the age of sixteen while studying.

Tell us about your family and/or pets. I've been married for 22 years to my loving husband Jose and we have 4 beautiful children. My oldest Katalina Itzel is 12 and in the 7th grade this year. My second son Eleazar was diagnosed with ASD, whom is now 10 and in the 5th grade. My third daughter Paola Lizet is 8 years old and in the 3rd grade. My last little boy, but certainly not the least is Sebastian. He's now 6 years old and in the 1st grade.

Do you have any hobbies? I love to do handmade crafts and a lot of crocheting.

If you could learn to do anything, what would it be? I would like to learn more about being a Social Worker.

If you won the lottery, what is the first thing you would do? Most definitely, help the people who have helped us along the way to be where we are now. But I would also like to open or donate to an organization in our area that could focus and/or offer appropriate trainings to families with children with any type of Autism.

When you have 30 minutes of free time, how do you pass the time? I usually spend it sitting on the deck with/without my husband and just relax.

What's your favorite indoor/outdoor activity? This would definitely be hands on activities with my children. We all enjoy making or working on any sensory activities that we are able to create at home with what we already have.

What chore do you absolutely hate doing? Dishes.....plain and simple.

If you could meet anyone, living or dead, who would you meet and why? If there was ever the possibility to meet a loved one whom has passed, I would choose to see my mom. She was my rock and my best friend. I admired her strength and her willingness to fight her illness. She inspired me the most to move forward in life and never to stop working hard to accomplish my goals.

What three traits define you? I'm very friendly, reliable, positive and multi-tasker.

If you had to eat one meal, every day for the rest of your life, what would it be? My mom's home cooked Mexican Beef soup.

What are some things on your bucket list? Work wise, I want to continue to gain more knowledge on my role as Data Processor. Due to bad timing now, I would also like to return back to school.

Anything else you would like to add? I do want to add that I've learned a lot working for Tri-Valley over the years. I'm a migrant myself and in my younger years have worked in the fields with my family. I also attended a Migrant Summer Program in the state of Wyoming when we couldn't work due to the weather. I became a volunteer when I first learned about the program in our area for two seasons on and off. Then I became a member for the Policy Council for two years before working for Tri-Valley. I wanted to be involved, learn more about the program and what it all entailed before applying. Tri-Valley also helped me achieve my CDA when I started working in the Sleepy Eye center. All my children attending the program at a very young age and up until they started Kinder. Working with children has helped me learn and grow as a parent with my own children. I still, to this day continue to grow with them and gain more knowledge every year. I also learn a lot from the families that come up here and their struggles. It's been very gratifying to see the impact our program has on the families and especially the children. It's always a blessing to see all the families that do return to our program every year and also the new families that come in after hearing from our program. So in all, I want to say that it's been a privilege and an honor being able to be a part of a great program and working with amazing people.