



rachel
chavez

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Rachel Chavez, RHCHP '10

Rachel Chavez feels that God is always with her, guiding her. God was with her the night she decided which college to attend. This was during high school and she was participating in a summer camp at Regis. She was walking across the quad late at night when a fox trotted up to her. The animal approached as though it was specifically seeking her out. “It had more peace in its eyes than most people,” she recalls. “And after that moment I knew that God was telling me where I needed to be.”

God was also with Rachel during the darkest moment of her life. This was at age fourteen and for some time her biological parents had been struggling with drug addiction. On this particular night the landlord had nailed an eviction notice to their door. Rachel had no idea what she was going to do. Still, like every Wednesday night, she went to church. She recalls feeling angry at all the joy around her, and constantly choking back tears throughout the service. Afterwards, the youth pastor and his wife asked if she would stay and pray with them. They'd noticed that she wasn't herself and asked if everything was okay. She told them her story and they offered to have her stay with them for a few days until things got straightened out. A few days turned into a month and a month into eight years. “Without their sweet request to pray with me I have no doubt in my mind that I would not be where I am today,” Chavez says.

Today, with God's guidance, encouragement from her foster parents, a generous scholarship from the Daniel's Fund, and a tireless work ethic, Chavez is a graduate of Regis University. She received her degree in nursing this past May. Of all the memories she made at Regis, it is the service opportunities that stay with her. An immersion trip to Mexico, in particular, had a major impact. “The trip made such an impression on me because not only did we get the chance to become part of a community, but we also got to use our medical skills in a very hands-on way.”

Besides putting the skills she was learning in the classroom to use, that trip also forced her to ask some tough questions about herself and the world.

Because of experiences like these, and her own personal history, Rachel has decided on a career that will allow her to give back. This summer she became a nurse in the Air Force in Florida, where she will use her skills in service of her country, and at the same time earn her Doctor of Nursing Practice. That degree will help her reach her long term goal of opening a clinic in Mexico. “What I really want is to teach the community about basic first aid and show them the power of God's love,” Chavez says. Telling her story might be the perfect place to start. She is, after all, an extraordinary example of just how far faith can take you.