

## MARITZA PUCHA

Quito/Ecuador

### **How many siblings do you have?**

I have 3 sisters.

### **Do you have any pets?**

Yes, I do.

### **What are your favorite pastimes or hobbies?**

Playing with my son, listening to music

### **Are you working? What type of work are you doing?**

Yes, I do sewing work at home, from mending to making garments.

### **Studies**

**Academic program:** Fashion Design

**School name:** Equinoccial Technological University

**Graduation:** 2017

### **What work will you pursue with your program?**

Being a designer and pattern designer for prestigious companies



### **The Foundation**

I was in a difficult situation when I started studying fashion design. The university where I was studying was closed because it got a low grade due to lack of academic quality, according to the Council of Higher Education (CES). I met Mike and Maggie at the Mass offered by the CMT. When Maggie sang in the Eucharist I loved to listen to her. I also heard about Mike through my friends and they told me he was a great teacher in mathematics, but neither of them was my teacher in the CMT. They got to know me through another member of DEOF and Mike Cunningham, a volunteer who had told them about my education at CMT, my good grades, my behavior with others, etc. so I had access to DEOF.

Personally, DEOF has supported me both psychologically and economically and I also received a lot of support in my education. Thanks to this I am now a professional and I like what I do. While studying at DEOF during college I could get a 50% cultural scholarship, with which I could travel and get to know other countries. DEOF is a second home with many siblings preparing for a better future, with unique and unforgettable opportunities, with excellent parents worrying daily about their Ecuadorian children.

### **COVID Disruption**

During the confinement, I was pregnant. Although I was locked up, I distracted my mind by drawing, painting, cooking, and reading a little. Because of the COVID we lost our jobs, family members who were far away got sick and others died. I overcame hard moments of anguish and desperation that taught me to value every minute of my life. I have worked from home because I spend more time with my family; I am less exposed to the virus and I go out when it is necessary. Although I am starting a new entrepreneurship, I like what I do and I hope to grow little by little.