Pathway to Progress Nicaragua



Meet Aitana...

Aitana Guadalupe Aguirre Montenegro is a very sweet and kind 8-year-old girl with a vibrant imagination, who loves to give hugs and listen to stories. She was born on September 18, 2017, in Managua, Nicaragua, to Natividad de Jesús Montenegro and Luis Aguirre. In English her mom's name means "nativity of Jesus". Natividad and Luis are both older parents. Natividad is 54 and Luis, 67.





Aitana is pictured above with her mom outside their home in Managua and with her dad, walking onto the school grounds at Instituto Loyola in the early morning. Because of the warm, tropical climate, classes begin at 7:30 a.m. and end at noon.

Although Luis and Natividad have never lived together, Luis adores Aitana and is a dedicated, hard-working father who arrives at Natividad's house every morning to take Aitana to school on the city bus. Natividad used to work as a domestic but has not worked in a while due to chronic tendonitis in her hands and arms. Luis retired at 60 from his job as a policeman and took a course in appliance repair & maintenance. He now works repairing refrigerators, washing machines and TVs to provide for Aitana and Natividad. Natividad has an older daughter, Katherine, 23, who is married and lives in the U.S. Aitana misses her older sister very much and Natividad worries for Katharine and her family's safety as she and her husband are undocumented.

Through her scholarship with Pathway to Progress, Aitana is a happy 3rd grader at Instituto Loyola, a well-respected private Catholic school in the heart of Managua. Aitana loves her classroom teacher, Miss Ericka, who has been with her class since 1st grade. She tells us her favourite class this year is Phys Ed because she likes sports and the teacher is a lot of fun. She is pictured here with Program Director, Ed Dunsworth, in Managua at a gathering we had for all the elementary school kids in January of this year.



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We asked Aitana how she would describe herself and she told us she's a friendly and generous kid who likes to sing and dance and draw. When she grows up, she wants to be "a vet AND a YouTuber who records content about cats and dogs".

Each family in the program is accompanied by a Family Facilitator, who is a professional social worker. Aitana's Family Facilitator is Karla Montelvan. Karla acts as facilitator and mentor for ten families in the program. She visits Aitana and her mom in their home regularly and meets weekly with Aitana's teachers at Loyola. Aitana also comes to our Children's Center twice a week to receive tutoring and participate in other activities organized by the staff to support their learning and development.

Below, from right to left: Aitana with Karla; Aitana working with Juan Avendaño, our math tutor; and choosing a story to read with Luvy Martinz, our reading coach.







Thank you, Good Shepherd Parish, for lovingly supporting the education of 8-year-old Aitana in Managua, Nicaragua. You are giving her the chance to flourish in an emotionally and academically sound environment that will help to lead her to a brighter future.

Thank you for everything your gift makes possible for her.

BJD -July 10, 2026