

In Loving Memory of Orfe

Ms. Orfelinda Lozano Bonilla was more than just an immigrant from Mexico who worked hard to obtain her legal U.S. citizenship – she was a helper, friend and confidant to the Hispanic community of Fort Smith and Van Buren, and she will be truly missed.

Ms. Orfe received her Masters Degree in Clinical Psychology in Zacatecas, Mexico, in 2003. She worked over 600 hours directly with handicapped children and completed 800 hours of social services to the community through the Psychological Investigation Center in her home country.

Once Orfe came to the United States, she immediately put in motion the process of becoming a naturalized U.S. citizen and succeeded in doing so 13 years later. Orfe was extremely proud of her citizenship, and wanted to help others in their quest to become citizens.

In 2011, Ms. Orfe received training in the Active Parenting of Teens curriculum from Parenting Instructor Frances Morreale and began teaching parenting classes to Hispanic parents in the Fort Smith area through a contract with Comprehensive Juvenile Services. Through the last 5 years of teaching parenting classes, Orfe has touched the lives of countless Hispanic parents and children by offering her own brand of common sense logic, wisdom and caring advice as her clients struggled to raise their children in a culture very different from their own.

Not only was Orfe a blessing to her parenting students within the class, but they came to rely on her ever gracious assistance in their everyday lives as they attempted to navigate through a system which is difficult even for English speaking parents to understand. Orfe was an active member of the Fort Smith Spanish Seventh-Day Adventist Church where she performed many volunteer duties through the years.

Ms. Orfe was tragically taken away from her friends and family as she did what she did best – helping a friend in a time of need. Ms. Orfe will remain in our hearts and memories forever. Farewell, Ms. Orfe, until we meet again.