

Mom strives to gain a better education

By Maribel Villalva / El Paso Times

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When Ignacia Perez was pregnant with her son, Erick, she had a lot of worries. Because of her diabetes, she had already lost a girl before she was born, and now she was pregnant with a boy.

But luckily for her, Erick was born healthy and strong.

Perez came to El Paso with her husband and son and, soon after, started taking classes for her GED. She was always the first one in class, and that got her noticed by her teachers, one of them being Juana Rodriguez.

"She's very motivated to have more education," Rodriguez said. Rodriguez admires the way Perez remains positive despite financial hardships the family faces.

"The family is low-income. Her husband works in construction, but those jobs are few," Rodriguez said. "Her son sleeps in the living room of their small apartment, and, even then, she always says that there are other children out there who need more than her child."

Rodriguez, who works with the agency Avance, nominated little Erick to get a new coat this Christmas through the charity Operation Noel. Erick received the coat earlier this month.

"He was so happy with it," Rodriguez said. "I know for a fact that his parents didn't have the money to get him a new coat."

Maribel Villalva may be reached at mwillalva@elpasotimes.com;546-6129.

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