



My Life by Erick Daniel Tolentino

Fourteen years ago I nicknamed Daniel, The Artist, because of his extraordinary artistic talent. Back then, he was a 4-year-old boy just starting school. Recently I spend an afternoon with him, now 18, and his very proud father at their home in the old Tijuana garbage dump. Much of our conversation was in English which he credits Profe Felipe for teaching him. I found myself intrigued by Daniel's determination to pursue his dreams that I asked him to share his autobiography with you. (Daniel is one of the three recipients of Responsibility's Dorothy Lynch Colledge Scholarship.) *Pictured: Daniel with his first teacher, Profe Felipe. - David Lynch*

My name is Erik Daniel Tolentino. I was born on August 20, 1993, in the city of Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico. My parents are Maria Luisa Jeronimo Hernández and Ramiro



Tolentino Augustine. I have one sister and two brothers. My parents work as scavengers and I am very proud of them because with that work they have been able to better our family's life.

Since I was small, studying and reading have always interested me. My favorite books are "The Old Man and the Sea" and "The Diary of Anne Frank."

I entered Kindergarten David Lynch at age 4. My teachers were Profe Felipe and Profe Martha. This phase of my life was very important since this was where I got my introduction to education, learning its value and importance at a very early age. Even as a little boy, I was very proud to be a student and took my studies very seriously. After studying two years at Kindergarten David Lynch, I entered the primary school next door. In elementary school I received several academic awards. It is while I was in elementary school that I was introduced to computers, thanks to Profe Jaime. He really sparked my interest in learning about computer technology.

After six years in grade school, I continued my studies in the secondary school #106 where I learned many interesting things that would change the course of my life: I discovered I want to work in the electronics field.

Three years later, I entered a high school named CECyTE (School of Technological and Scientific Studies) where I chose to study the career of technician in electronics. Thanks to the support of my classmates, family, and teachers, I graduated with top honors: No. 1 in the department of electronics technician, and No. 2 in the whole school. (There were 517 students in the entire school.)

Now at 18-years old I'm going to the university, Technological Institute of Tijuana. I am in the school of electrical engineering. When I graduate, I hope to build a robot or some apparatus that improves the quality of life of the people.

I thank all the professors who helped forge a better future in my life. It is with their support that I am where I am today.

P.O. Box 433199, San Ysidro, CA 92143-3199 www.responsibilityonline.org 619-428-822