## **Immigrating to the UNITED STATES**

By: Alejandro Quintanilla

It was early in the cold morning, it was rainy and dark, and that same morning we would take the road to another country. It was September 2021. We had planned to leave Honduras in November, but things were a little early, we were not prepared for what would come, but we trusted to be able to face it. We arrived at the border between Honduras and Guatemala and passed all of Guatemala in comfortable buses. After a whole day of travel, we heard the announcement "Border of Guatemala and Mexico."

We arrived excitedly at the border of the first countries. We were able to enter Mexico, and we traveled for half an hour to reach the first state of Mexico, Chiapas. We stayed in a luxury hotel, then the days passed slowly, and shortly after, we had a month in the hotel. We reached my father on the phone, and I remember that day my father impatiently told him: "I think you'll have to move on." We waited for a month in the hotel, hoping that my father's lawyer would do everything possible to help us leave Mexico. We went by plane to Tijuana and from Tijuana by plane to Illinois. Then things got very complicated, it didn't happen, and we had to leave by land, and then we drove.

The day came when we got back on the road. We took the first bus to be able to move forward a little. It was such a terrifying, uncomfortable trip that I didn't want to be me at that moment, until finally, "SILTEPEC" was announced. Siltepec was the location that we were arriving at.

In the coming days, the trip was more horrible than before, and at that point, I could not imagine it being any worse than it had been. The good news that gave me a little bit of happiness was that we were halfway through the middle of the state. Then we took a luxury bus to Puebla, the next state on our journey.

I wanted to take a bath, sleep, and eat, and well, that's how it was. We took another bus to Cuernavaca, then to Aguascalientes, then Monterrey, and we arrived in Reynosa, there is the border, we were in a town where you could see the United States. We were in a 2-story house, it was 2 o'clock in the afternoon, I was on my cell phone in bed and fell asleep, I woke up when it was 7 o'clock at night, then the time came when my little sister and I parted ways with me mom, we were able to enter the USA. Only my sister and I, we were walking for 3 hours, finally US immigration found us, they took us to a warehouse, cold, they had ugly food, then they call us, we arrived at an airport, where we had a plane to Houston, Texas, another plane to, Chicago, Illinois that's where we met again with my mom, my dad, and my brother.