

C.E.F.S. Economic Opportunity Corporation



2017 FAMILY OF DISTINCTION The Miriam Ciro Family

As a part of the 2017 National Community Action Month celebration, C.E.F.S. Economic Opportunity Corporation honored a local Effingham family for their personal achievements demonstrating the fact that community action helps people and changes lives. The Miriam Ciro family of Effingham was recognized at the May 4, 2017 C.E.F.S. Board of Directors meeting as the 2017 Family of Distinction for exemplifying the spirit of hope and success that C.E.F.S. Economic Opportunity Corporation offers to all individuals and families in its mission to provide opportunities for people through education and support to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency. The Miriam Ciro family was nominated for the agency award by C.E.F.S. Literacy and Outreach Program staff for the significant strides the family made in the pursuit of self-sufficiency since first seeking help from the agency.

The Miriam Ciro family was also recognized and honored along with other families from across the state on May 7, 2017 by the Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies in Springfield as one of the outstanding Illinois families for personal achievements to improve their lives. Families from across Illinois were honored and the Ciro family received the community engagement achievement award. Further, the Miriam Ciro family was one of the families featured in a special video presentation at the statewide event.

Miriam Ciro, a U.S. citizen originally from Ecuador, came to C.E.F.S. Economic Opportunity Corporation after moving to Effingham from Chicago. Miriam hoped to improve her English after learning about the literacy classes C.E.F.S. offered. This was the beginning of a successful relationship between Miriam Ciro and the C.E.F.S. program services offered that helped lead to the stable family situation that has been achieved.

Miriam Ciro has participated in several programs administered by C.E.F.S. Economic Opportunity Corporation. Miriam Ciro continues to participate at the Learning Center where she receives tutoring in English as a Second Language provided through the C.E.F.S. Literacy Program. As a result of tutoring, Ciro is able to assist her three young grandsons with their homework and she can better communicate with school and extracurricular activity personnel. Miriam Ciro utilized the C.E.F.S. Effingham County Outreach Office for energy assistance through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program and income tax preparation services through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program. Ciro enrolled her grandsons in swimming lessons and local park district camps through the Community Services Block Grant Summer Youth Scholarship Program. In addition, two of Ciro's grandsons were enrolled in the C.E.F.S. Head Start 0-5 Program when they were younger. Further, Miriam Ciro completed the C.E.F.S. First-Time Homebuyer's class to learn information regarding purchasing her first home. Outreach staff also provided the family with referrals to other partner resources available in the local community.

Education is highly valued by the Ciro family. Miriam Ciro has the expectation for her grandsons to receive a college education and has started saving for them to attend college. Miriam Ciro involves her grandsons in a variety of activities and events and she also volunteers in the community. The Ciro family attends and participates in church and church fundraisers, participates in library events and is engaged in many local sports. Further, Miriam also assisted a friend to obtain Outreach services and served as a translator for her Spanish-speaking friend and C.E.F.S. Outreach staff.

Miriam Ciro has gone to great lengths to overcome the economic disadvantages of being a single grandmother raising three grandsons with limited English skills and a limited income. Miriam Ciro has set goals for her family and has been determined to achieve them and to give her grandsons every opportunity for success. Miriam Ciro sets a good example and takes a lot of pride in her grandsons, and they are doing well in school and are very well-mannered and responsible young boys. Miriam Ciro's success is a product of her unmatched determination. C.E.F.S. Economic Opportunity Corporation is honored to be part of Miriam Ciro's life journey as she continues to improve her English skills and meet her goals.



The Miriam Ciro Family is the recipient of the 2017 Family of Distinction Award.