

Crossroads Connection

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www.crossroadslongmont.org

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Finding a Way to Her Goal... *by Janet Streed*

Rizi's Story

Students come to Crossroads for a variety of reasons. Rizia Swedbergh's story, like many other students, is unique. Until she was 13, Rizia, nicknamed Rizi, attended school in the Philippines. When her mother, Kay, accepted a nursing position in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Rizi completed 8th, 9th, and half of 10th grade there. In the UAE, Rizi served as a liaison between the student body and the principal. She successfully instituted a Talent Day, one of her many accomplishments as Head Girl.

Rizi's mother met Dean Swedbergh online in August 2012, and when they married in March 2013, her life changed. Dean adopted Rizi, and plans were made for her and her mom to join Dean in the US.

Visas for Rizi and her mom should have taken six months. Instead, it was a 16 month wait, during which Rizi missed school as they kept expecting the visas to come through. Once the family was together in the US, they figured Rizi could earn her high school diploma through the St. Vrain Valley School District. But because the district determined Rizi would be too old to meet their criteria when she graduated from high school, and because the UAE wouldn't release Rizi's transcripts, she was denied admittance.

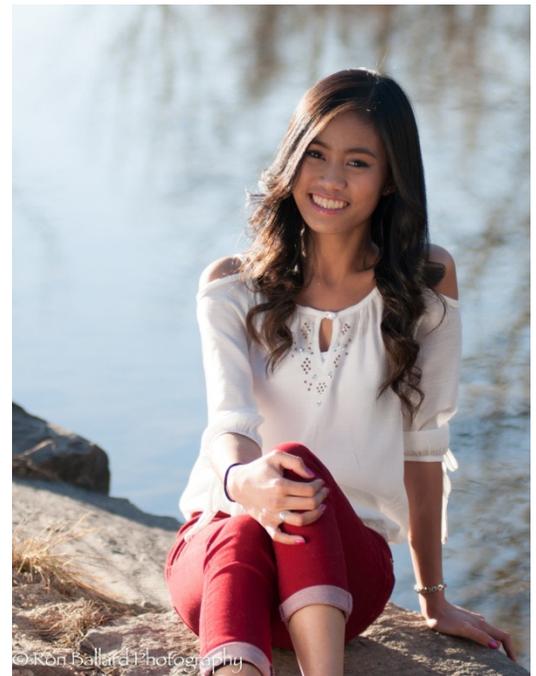
Rizi is goal oriented. She plans to be a nurse, specialize as an anesthetist, and serve in the US Navy. After enrolling at Front Range Community College (FRCC), in December 2014 to earn her General Equivalency Diploma (GED), she learned from Navy recruiters that she would be better off with a traditional diploma.

Crossroads Executive Director Barb Bulthuis knew about Rizi's dilemma because Dean volunteers at the school, working as a mentor. Rizi began classes at Crossroads in February 2015. Mrs. Bulthuis has been able to get partial school records from the UAE, and Rizi is on target to graduate this May.

In addition to her classes at Crossroads, Rizi is taking an English class at FRCC for dual high school and college credit, and she also works anywhere from 26 to 32 hours each week at King Soopers. She has been trained in the floral, customer service, and fuel departments, and also as a cashier. She likes the variety. When she isn't busy with school and work, she enjoys acrylic painting, playing her guitar, and photography. She misses playing basketball, and isn't hesitant to mention she has a trophy from playing that sport in the UAE.

After checking out the pros and cons of going the enlistment route or the ROTC route with the Navy, Rizi plans to take as many nursing classes as possible while earning a two-year degree at FRCC. She then plans to transfer to UNC's School of Nursing to complete a bachelor's program before joining the Navy. Her desire to be a nurse comes naturally. Her mother has been an ICU nurse for 17 years, an aunt is a nurse, and another aunt is a doctor.

There's no doubt Rizi will achieve her goals and more. As she does, she will have Crossroads to thank for solving an unusual dilemma.



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Creative Funding Sources

A Few Unusual Places Crossroads Gets Money—and How You Can Help!

Although the bulk of the funding for Crossroads School comes in the form of gifts or grants from individuals, businesses, churches, and foundations that choose to invest in our students, we do have some other creative sources. These cost nothing more than a couple minutes of your time, and reap rewards for Crossroads:

Gift Cards: If you shop at Safeway, King Soopers, Loaf and Jug, Vons, or Ralph's, you can help the school raise money without spending a penny of your own! Simply contact the school to get a gift card, which has \$5 already on it. Then reload the card with any amount at the register, the customer service desk, or the gas station teller, and Crossroads automatically gets 5% of the total you add to the card--and you still get to spend the full amount, as well!

Box Tops for Education/Labels for Education/Milk Caps for Moola: Box Tops for Education and Labels for Education are on a wide variety of products, from cereal to soup to kleenex and more. Milk caps are on Longmont Dairy products. Simply clip these labels or save the milk caps and drop them off or mail them to the school. Crossroads also has collection boxes at the Journey of Longmont and Central Presbyterian Church, and we're happy to have you help us get collection boxes in other churches that are willing! The school receives cash when we submit these labels and caps to the correct program.

Printer Cartridges: We submit empty printer and toner cartridges at Office Max, and for each cartridge submitted we received \$2 credit toward office supply purchases that the school needs. Does your business have a printer or copier? Save those cartridges for us, too! Simply drop off the cartridges at the school or give them to a student, staff member, or volunteer that you may know and they can drop them off.

Amazon Smile: If you ever purchase anything from Amazon, you can go to smile.amazon.com to choose a charity (Crossroads School!) to receive a percentage of your purchases. Then just be sure you navigate to smile.amazon.com rather than Amazon.com, log in, and shop as usual!

Food and Fellowship: You gotta eat, right? Once a month (except December and the summer months) Crossroads hosts a fundraiser night at a local restaurant. It's a good excuse to go out, enjoy a great meal, and know that Crossroads receives a percentage of your purchase while you have fun with family and friends!

Used Book Emporium: Consign your used books at this local bookstore at 346 Main Street, and ask them to add the proceeds to the Crossroads account.

**Reach for the Stars:
Annual Friends' Dinner**

**Friday, April 1, 6 pm
LifeBridge Church**

Info & RSVP at:

www.crossroadslongmont.org

Thrivent Choice Dollars: Thrivent Financial allows their members to decide where they give as an organization. If you invest through Thrivent, simply designate your Choice Dollars to Crossroads School.

Thank you for supporting Crossroads with your gifts, and also for helping us access these corporate dollars! Together, we are changing our world--one life at a time.

Food & Fellowship

Join Us for This Fundraising Event!

MARCH: Inta' Juice (Mon, Mar 28, 4-7 pm)

Enjoy a delicious fruit smoothie and benefit Crossroads! The school receive 20% of ALL sales during the fundraiser!

