

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

Mankato

YOUNG WOMAN OF DISTINCTION 2019

Deisy De Leon Esqueda

Deisy's family immigrated from Mexico to the United States when she was a child. She had no idea what lay ahead, only that she was going somewhere much safer. She was a first-generation immigrant in a small town in rural Minnesota during the 80s and early 90s and struggled as she tried to find a balance between her Mexican home (family) and American surroundings. Growing up an immigrant was not easy, but life was full of opportunities. She took college courses at Minnesota State University, Mankato after graduating from St. James High School.

There have been many extraordinary individuals and pivotal points in her life. While still a teenager, she was involved in Personal Growth and Career Development workshops which were offered by Lifework Planning Center and realized there was much more beyond graduation day. Preserving her Spanish language brought her into the non-profit sector where she has stayed for 15 years.

She feels privileged to be part of her church, work and community. She is encouraged daily to take action and make a difference even if it may seem insignificant. She has been involved in other projects and is currently helping with the Mankato SDA's Pathfinder/Adventurer Club. Being a part of a non-profit like ECHO has been one of the most rewarding experiences for her. She has seen how a collaboration of many people has changed the way others think and act toward hunger insecurity.

Her journey in life has been filled with many special people who have led the way. She is still learning from this journey and sharing it with those around her; husband, Adam and children Hazel, Eyden, Micah and Liam.