

MARITZA PUCHA

Quito/Ecuador

How many siblings do you have?

I have 3 sisters and a son.

Do you have any pets?

Yes, I do.

What are your favorite pastimes or hobbies?

Playing with my son, listening to music

Studies**Academic program:** Fashion Design**School name:** Equinoccial Technological University UTE**Graduation:** 2017**The Foundation**

I was in a difficult situation when I started studying fashion design. The university where I was studying was closed because it got a low grade due to lack of academic quality, according to the Council of Higher Education (CES). I met Mike and Maggie at the Mass offered by the CMT. When Maggie sang in the Eucharist I loved to listen to her. I also heard about Mike through my friends and they told me he was a great teacher in mathematics, but neither of them was my teacher in the CMT. They got to know me through another member of DEOF and Mike Cunningham, a volunteer who had told them about my education at CMT, my good grades, my behavior with others, etc. so I had access to DEOF.

Personally, DEOF has supported me both psychologically and economically and I also received a lot of support in my education. Thanks to this I am now a professional and I like what I do. While studying at DEOF during college I could get a 50% cultural scholarship, with which I could travel and get to know other countries. DEOF is a second home with many siblings preparing for a better future, with unique and unforgettable opportunities, with excellent parents worrying daily about their Ecuadorian children.

2024 Update:

Six years ago I graduated from the Equinoccial Technological University with a degree in fashion design. While studying, I traveled to Peru and Mexico as part of the UTE polyphonic choir, where together with other international choirs we united our voices to demonstrate our love for singing.

I worked for three years at the textile company D'ROLY until the pandemic arrived; I am currently working on my business making all types of sports clothing for women, men and children.

From time to time I attend entrepreneurship workshops, online courses on pattern making and other topics that help me strengthen my skills.

I thank God, Mike, Maggy and Rubén for helping me grow with their example, as a person, which is the most important thing, but also professionally.