

# Hispanic Heritage Month

## Community Voices: Maya

*What would you like to tell us about your Hispanic heritage?*

Although my parents were born in Mexico, they came to the US fairly young and did their best to assimilate to American society. It wasn't until I was older and visited my family living in Mexico that I realized I had missed out on much of my Hispanic heritage growing up.



*Maya preparing to hit a piñata during a Mexican fiesta in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.*



*Maya and her sister in a dancing group.*

*How and why is it important to you?*

My Hispanic heritage helps me reconnect with my family still in Mexico. From preschool to high school my exposure to Spanish and other parts of my culture was limited to what my parents could remember of their childhoods. Now that I'm older, I can research my history and participate in cultural festivities.

*What is a source of pride for you in your culture?*

The rich history of both indigenous and European culture and tradition. Traditions and celebrations like Ash Wednesday and Día de los Muertos can coexist and each new generation is able to integrate them into an identity different from what came before.



*Maya and her siblings' baptism.*



*Maya's family together making tamales.*

*What do you wish your greater community knew about Hispanic cultures?*

It is more than just Cinco de Mayo and ponchos. Every state and community in Mexico comes with its own rich history, music, and folklore. Whether you come from Sonora or Chiapas everyone brings something unique to the Hispanic culture.

*What does Hispanic Heritage Month mean to you?*

It is a month of remembrance. A reminder of my origins and my ancestral culture.

