

Hispanic Heritage Month

Community Voices: Michelle

My name is Michelle and I was born in El Salvador; the smallest country in Central America (El Salvador is about the size of Massachusetts). When I was 10, my family and I were given the opportunity to become residents of the US and after a year, we were able to move to Reno. It was a tough decision for my parents as they had to leave their careers and family behind. While they were sad to leave, they knew that my brother and I would have more opportunities in the US.

El Salvador is a beautiful country with generous, funny, caring (and some will say loud) people. Food is a central aspect of our culture: I remember eating pupusas with my parents on weekends and picking up tortillas with my mom on weekdays. To this day, eating traditional Salvadorian food makes me feel close to home and my family. In the US, many people are familiar with Mexican culture and food. While I love spicy Mexican food, did you know that Salvadorian food is not spicy? That is one small difference, out of many, between Hispanic countries.

Hispanic Heritage Month allows us to connect to our cultures and learn more about others! A great way to immerse yourself in another culture is to visit an authentic restaurant: you'll often find art, photos, displays of traditional clothing, drinks and more from the country.



Michelle's mom wearing a traditional Salvadorian dress at an Independence Day celebration.



Michelle at a school Independence Day celebration.

On September 15th, El Salvador celebrated 200 years of independence from Spain. This day is usually celebrated with a parade that all schools participate in. Many students wear traditional Salvadorian clothing, popular music is played by marching bands and cheerleaders dance to the music.

