

# Living a *dream*

## An Alumni Profile of Ann Padilla.



Tom and Ann

As I sit here to write about my experience at the Denver Street School and how it has affected my life it is difficult to know where to begin. I am currently in law school, a dream I never believed I could reach until I graduated from the Denver Street School.

I was kicked out of public school for poor attendance. I had missed so many days, and when my father died I just lost interest. Although my goal was to graduate high school, I had no future plans. I enrolled at the street school and it changed my life.

At my history teacher's request, I took the ACT. I was accepted into college and received a four-year scholarship from the street school. I graduated with a double major in History and Criminal Justice and Criminology. That was a big deal to my family as I was the first to do so, and my maternal grandmother has 80 grandkids. Needless to say, we were all so proud!

I can't say that I had an unsupportive family. They have always been a source of strength. What I can say is that I now include the Denver Street School in that family. When my father died, I was a hurting kid who had many unanswered questions and felt the ability to dream for my future was limited. The school taught me to dream bigger, gave me a different outlook on life and has helped open so many doors. They also helped me find my faith again and learn to really trust God!

This is a very scary time in my life. It is truly amazing that I have come this far and I've taken a big risk by attending law school in a town where I have no family. The street school is a big reason for this adventure, and I owe a great deal to them. As I sit here, I think about what my life would have been like if I had not gone to the Denver Street School. I am a direct product of their hard work and devotion to troubled kids. They have been a blessing in more ways than I can count!

