

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Jose A Valadares Salazar and I would like to tell you about my motives for wanting to play soccer. My family and I came from the state of Michoacan is Mexico. We lived comfortably in a community called El Tepate in the Municipality of Apatzingan. The situation involving organized crime began to worsen, which caused the teachers at my school to stop working. My brother Erik and I began to work in the fields to help our mother. We harvested lemon, sorghum and sesame. Half of what little money we earned was extorted from us by members of the cartel. This went on until my mother told us she had made preparations and that everything was going to change come December. On December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013 we were in Tijuana and on the 9<sup>th</sup> we were picked up in San Diego to begin our life in this country. With my mother's love we have endured and are grateful to have parents, unlike others who are less fortunate. My mother fights for us day by day and I just hope to make the most of my newfound opportunities. Playing soccer is what I passionately desire to do, as I was unable to do so in Mexico. I hope that this letter helps explain the extraordinary circumstances of my academic situation. I believe that given the chance to participate in soccer, I will be more involved and motivated in my academic activities. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jose A. Valladares Salazar

11<sup>th</sup> Grade

Birthdate: 09/21/1998

Translated by: Joaquin Peralta