

## Regina's Story



Thirty-three year old Regina worked in the home she shared with her partner Alex, a businessman. Together, they had two children, eight year old A. and four year old C.

Alex was physically and psychologically abusive to Regina from the first month of their relationship. The abuse only got worse later on, as Alex began to drink more with his friends, and then at home as well. When he was drunk, he was easily enraged and would violently hit his wife and his children.

Once, Alex left a Regina with a black eye. In his attempt to cover up what he'd done from neighbors and family, he made Regina call her mother and say she had left town. Alex locked Regina in the house and didn't let her speak with anyone for an entire week.

The horrible violence frightened the children. When they saw their mother being beaten, A. would desperately run for help from their neighbors to stop the fighting, and C. would hide away so that no one could find him.

Regina was afraid to leave Alex or refuse to do what he told her. She feared for her and children's lives. If she ever left or refused him, Alex threatened to kill her. Likewise, he threatened to take the children away, so that she would never see them again. He also threatened to physically and sexually abuse her family if she went to Paz y Esperanza.

However, she did come to Paz y Esperanza. Now, she and her two children are receiving therapy from the psychologists at Paz y Esperanza. Regina is becoming more confident and able to make her own decisions. She decided to leave her partner and denounce him for severe domestic violence. Regina is remaking her life plan, for herself and her children, and she is learning job skills through practice in a small business.