



Long before the San Fernando Youth Organization was founded, Elizabeth and her husband opened their home and hearts to two teenage girls in the foster care system. What began as an act of compassion became one of **life's greatest blessings.**

Together, they witnessed the healing that can happen when a young person is given stability, unconditional love, guidance, and someone who believes in them. Today, those two remarkable young women are independent, resilient, and thriving. They overcame tremendous obstacles and refused to become statistics. Their journey is a testament to what is possible when even one family chooses to invest in a young person's future.

That experience transformed Elizabeth's understanding of what mentorship, consistency, and genuine support can accomplish.

Then life changed again.

Elizabeth experienced the heartbreaking loss of her younger brother to addiction. She witnessed the unimaginable pain of her parents burying their son and felt the overwhelming grief of losing someone she loved deeply. In the midst of that heartbreak, one question continued to weigh on her heart:

What if someone had reached him sooner?

While no one can rewrite the past, Elizabeth chose to transform her pain into **purpose.**

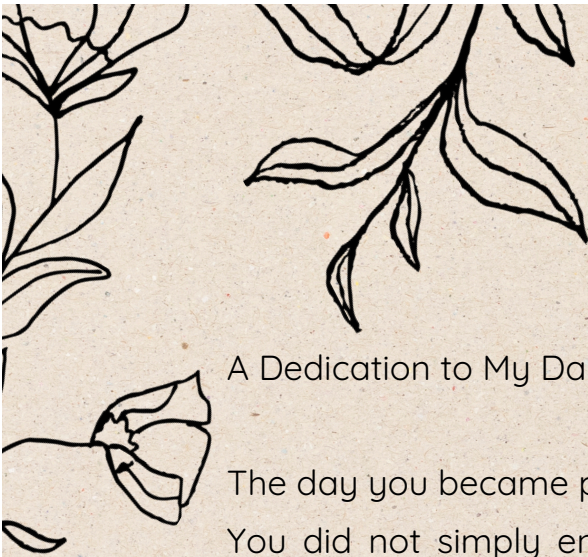
She made a commitment that if she could not change her brother's story, she would dedicate her life to helping change someone else's.

Today, that commitment lives through the San Fernando Youth Organization.

SFYO exists to ensure that young people and their families have access to mentorship, trusted relationships, education, mental health support, workforce opportunities, and the resources they need before a crisis becomes a tragedy.

Elizabeth believes every young person deserves someone who will show up, believe in them, and remind them that their future is never defined by their past. Her vision is to help youth heal, overcome adversity, build meaningful connections, and discover the hope and opportunity they deserve.





## A Dedication to My Daughters

The day you became part of our family, you forever changed our lives. You did not simply enter our home—you became our hearts. Thank you for trusting us, for allowing us to walk beside you, and for accepting us as your family. You have been one of God's greatest blessings, and I will forever be grateful that our paths crossed.

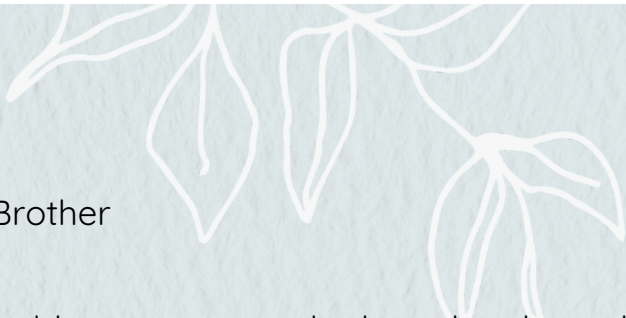
Watching you grow into the remarkable, strong, independent, and compassionate young women you are today has been one of the greatest joys of my life. You have overcome obstacles, broken barriers, and proven that your past does not determine your future. You have also taught me something priceless. Through your journey, you gave me the understanding, compassion, and lived experience to better serve youth who are searching for hope, guidance, and someone who believes in them. You helped shape not only the woman I am today but also the leader I have become.

Thank you for trusting us, for allowing us to love you, and for reminding me every day why this mission matters.

I love you both more than words can express, and I will always be proud to call you my daughters.







## A Dedication to My Baby Brother

Some people leave this world too soon, yet the love they leave behind lasts forever. You will always be the baby of our family, and not a day goes by that I don't carry you in my heart.

Losing you changed me in ways I never imagined. It brought a pain no family should have to endure, but it also awakened a purpose I never knew would become my life's calling. Every young person I mentor, every family I support, and every opportunity I create through the San Fernando Youth Organization is done in your honor—with the hope that another family may never have to experience the heartbreak that ours did. You left behind a beautiful daughter. One day, she may ask who her father was, and I will have the privilege of sharing stories about the man I knew, the memories we made, and the love our family has always had for you. I will make sure she knows that you mattered, that you were deeply loved, and that your life continues to inspire hope in the lives of so many others.

I could never change what happened, but I can choose what I do because of it. Your memory reminds me why this mission matters and why every young person deserves someone who believes in them before it's too late.

Thank you for being my brother. Thank you for unknowingly giving me a purpose greater than myself. Until we meet again, know that you are forever loved, forever missed, and forever a part of everything I do.

Rest peacefully, my baby brother. I will carry you in my heart for the rest of my life.

