

★ RANCHO PATIENT PROFILE ★

Zinthia Alvarado

“I was born in Los Angeles, but when I was 7 years old, I moved to El Salvador with my mother. While there, I was in a terrible accident. I was sitting in the front seat without a seat belt when our car was hit by a bus. I suffered a major spinal cord injury and was diagnosed with paraplegia.

“Many years later, I returned to L.A. and since then, Rancho has become my home away from home. After having surgery, I was sent to Rancho for rehabilitation. I was an inpatient for treatment of scoliosis, and I am now a Rancho outpatient.

“I love Rancho, because it is a place of magic for me and many of my friends. My friends in the adolescent support group are always there for me. The KnowBarriers program taught me how to set and reach goals. In the Don Knabe Pediatric Arts Program I not only learned how to paint and take interesting photographs, I discovered how to express myself in many new ways. Now I also participate in the Art of Rancho program.

“I have made several trips to El Salvador to mentor children with disabilities. I am committed to help provide wheelchairs to every child who needs one. I am working with Wheels for Humanity to help make this dream a reality!”

