Office of New Americans
Hispanic Heritage Month
Success Story | October 2026

A Journey of Skill, Perseverance, and Opportunity



> *We want to express our deepest gratitude to Catholic Charities for helping us get to where we are today as a family. When my wife, our son, and I arrived in the United States, we were starting a new life practically from scratch—facing many changes and uncertainties, with a great deal to learn and significant fear regarding the transition yet still filled with hope. Over time, thanks to hard work, perseverance, and the opportunities we found, we have managed to build a more stable life, continue growing professionally, and establish a home. Our family also grew with the birth of our second child. Looking back today, we can see how far we have come—from those early days working entry-level jobs in convenience stores to becoming accomplished professionals, thanks in large part to the help of Catholic Charities. We still have many goals ahead of us, but we are deeply grateful for the opportunity we received and for all the people at Catholic Charities, who helped us take those first steps and continued to lend us a hand as we grew. Thank you for being part of our story.*

Liliana and Tomas are Salvadoran refugees who arrived in the United States in July of 2024. Liliana's career in El Salvador was working in a clinic where she performed laboratory work while Tomas's career was in heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems (HVAC). When they both arrived, they knew they needed to start working as soon as possible in order to be able to sustain themselves and their family.

Tomas initially worked at Amazon Fresh until he was connected to a hiring event for NPL Construction. He was hired as a Gas Utility Laborer with NPL Construction this past March. Tomas truly enjoyed this job, and was able to learn a lot, even though it wasn't the same as his career in his home country. Recently, the RSSEP program at Catholic Charities connected Tomas with a commercial HVAC company named Arminco Air. After a successful interview, Tomas received an offer of employment and is scheduled to start with the company as an HVAC Assistant on September 29th.

In an effort to help Liliana with using her skills and training from back home, her RSSEP case manager assisted Liliana with enrolling with NOVA Phlebotomy where she completed training in phlebotomy and became a certified phlebotomist. In March, she began an internship with Labcorp, where she continued practicing and learning, and in June, she was hired into a full time position with Labcorp.

Liliana shared, "When I arrived in this country, one of my greatest concerns was the thought that I might never again work in the field for which I had so thoroughly prepared. From the very beginning, Catholic Charities believed in me and was there every step of the way, offering support and guidance. Thanks to their help—and to God—I am now blessed to work at Labcorp in my field of laboratory science. I am truly grateful from the bottom of my heart for their help in making a reality of something that meant so much to me"

We are immensely proud of these two clients, and everything they have achieved. Because of their capabilities, strengths, motivation, and perseverance, they have successfully re-entered their previous careers. Catholic Charities is honored to have played a small part in guiding Tomas and Liliana's on their journey and is excited to see their continued career growth.

**Names have been changed for confidentiality.*