Decisions Make Your Present and Your Future

by Robert Lopez Jr.

My name is Robert Lopez Jr. and I am so happy and grateful for the opportunities to succeed that I and all the people in the United States share.

Most parents want to leave a legacy for their children and hope to leave them with a greater opportunity for success and happiness. Although my dad was a hardworking man, he did not leave his children any real money or assets. He did, however, leave a legacy by working hard and moving the family from Mexico to the United States, which allowed me and my siblings to have access to the freedom and opportunities that I believe are like in no other country.

I was born in Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico and at the age of 13, my father was able to get a sponsor of a rich man he did work for in El Paso, Texas.

The move was scary and we did not speak any English, but we moved with all our belongings in one truck. We were very poor in Juarez. We had a house with a dirt floor and an outside bathroom.

I can say that with grace I am self-empowered and independent to be successful. I don't claim that has been easy, I have actually gone through many challenges: learning English, graduating from university while working two jobs and having a family. At one point, I was making $600 a month working for a church, having a family and going full time to school.

Recently, I left an executive position to pursue my own business. Again, another challenge or should I say another opportunity!

I remember the days I used to sell "Chicklets" — little gum candy — to the people travelling from Juarez to El Paso. Now, as I endeavor into the construction and real estate businesses, I can see the little boy all grown up. Not afraid anymore but "happy, healthy and wealthy." That is my motto every day.

Learn English, the culture, the business and then apply it every day. Know that life is short and is wonderful to live one day at a time, while learning from your past and planning for the future. Today is the day…to make a choice to be…