

Miguel Duarte's 15 photographs.



My family had a lemon tree in Mexico and when we moved to the US. I always thought it was a Mexican thing but it turns out it's just how my family makes the US feel more like home.



My father taught me the value of hard work by spending long hours doing construction. On this Father's day, I grilled Korean BBQ for my father to start a new tradition with him.



My mother always said it's a hard world to live in without believing in something. She taught me to believe in myself and to have faith.



It was hard to get a word in growing up with all sisters. Listening just came naturally after a while.



Every year for the past 14 years, my friends and I gather to celebrate the holidays. It's nice to have a chosen family.



Many of my college friends have moved to Japan to live there like I once did. I miss them but it's nice to know I will always have friendly faces and a place to stay at when I go visit.



I got the chance to guide my boyfriend around Tokyo and introduce him to Hachiko. That statue is always waiting there for us.



This is Jerry. He dresses in costumes as a therapy dog that collaborates with my job's mental health program twice a year. Best 12 weeks ever.



It took me a long time to take pride in being different growing up. I was able to use acting to try on different roles while I explored which one was me. I finally felt like I didn't have to assimilate to be accepted.



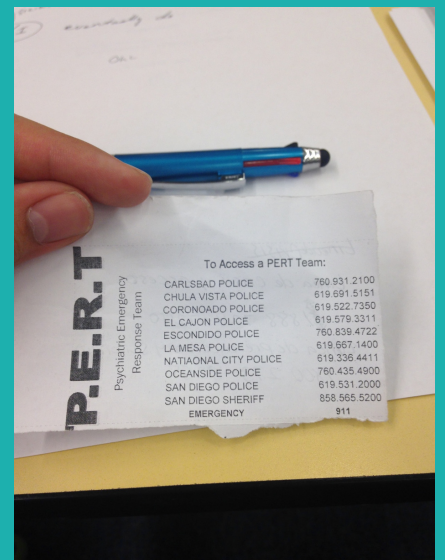
Sometimes it's hard to look past all the negatives and stress. That's why I like climbing, it's easier to look past things when you reach new heights.



I am reminded to be myself and express myself whenever I see members of my community take pride in who they are. I value their fight and feel honored to continue on their shoulders.



"I jumped him because he's white. I hate white people." I called PERT when a client threatened to jump off the eighth floor of a building. PERT was busy so police showed up instead and tackled my client.



"I AM trying! Why can't my mom see that I'm trying?" - 14 year old client with ODD. He enjoyed this fishing resource we found in his community and thrived on positive attention.



"I'm finally around people like me!" - 16 year old client on the autism spectrum. He had the biggest smile when we walked around the convention center for Comic-Con.



"He's helping me work on my anger" - 8 year old client with PTSD. We planted seeds together and learned skills that will bloom with time, consistency, and nurturing.

