Cynthia Izaguirre

*News Anchor for the Channel 8 News at 5 and 10 o’clock*

Though she was born in Brooklyn, New York, Cynthia Izaguirre considers herself a “native Dallas-ite” because she has lived there ever since she was a baby.

Her parents, both from Ecuador, moved to the United States to gain a better tomorrow for themselves and for their children, which instilled in Izaguirre a great sense of American pride. From a young age, she was always very curious and had a genuine interest in people and what was going on around her. In seventh grade, she began to watch Gloria Campos after school and wished she could grow up to be just like her. Her mother encouraged her in her aspiration, saying, “You can do it. Just work hard and you can get it done.”

Now, not only does Izaguirre have the job that Campos had, but she actually sits in the exact chair, across from John McCaa, where Campos sat. “It’s humbling beyond explanation,” Izaguirre said of her current position.

After interning at Fox 4 and KERA while a student at the University of North Texas, Izaguirre landed her first job at a television consulting firm called Talent Dynamics. It was there that she networked and made contacts, which is the most important trick in the business, she said.
Her first television job was at KTAB-TV in Abilene, TX where she worked for only eight months. From there, she “cut the umbilical cord and left Texas” and moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico where she worked as a reporter for KOAT-TV.

With only six months reporting at the station under her belt, she was promoted to weekend anchor. A year later, she was promoted to the morning show and a year after that, she was promoted to the 5, 6 and 10 p.m. anchor position. She stayed in New Mexico for years before she received the call that changed her career.

“I was there for eight years in Albuquerque building up my resume in hopes that that would bring me to the ultimate gig that I had dreamed about since seventh grade, and that was to work at WFAA-TV,” Izaguirre said. “And sure enough, 10 years in the business, I’ll never forget the phone call back at the end of 2007 from the news director here at the time, Michael Valentine.”

Valentine had been watching Izaguirre and he asked her if she wanted to come back home. Without hesitation, she said, “Yes” and began working at WFAA-TV in January 2008.

She did not have enough words to describe her love and admiration for her predecessor, Campos. “Thanks to her, she opened the doors for all Latinos and young women, and I really, truly admire her for that,” Izaguirre said. “So when I first got here in 2008 she welcomed me with open arms.” When Campos retired in March of 2014, Izaguirre initially did not want to apply for the job because she had two-year-old twins at home that she was taking care of. However, the station approached her and said she was the best person for the job, so she accepted it, fulfilling her dream of being the five and 10 o’clock anchor for WFAA.

Most people work their entire lives and never achieve the aspirations they had when they were young, but Izaguirre did, and she did not stop there. Children have always been a passion for her, so in 2010 Izaguirre took over the Wednesday Child Reports. These reports are a section of the news highlighting foster children in an effort to find them homes.

“I have always asked God to let me use this powerful tool that I have to do good…It is an opportunity, really, for me to make a difference,” Izaguirre said. “And my calling, I know now, for this business is to help foster children find homes…It is what I do every week and it is what I hope I will be remembered for.”

She holds several of these children close to her heart; when asked to name one that stood out, she told a story about Jaquavious, a 16-year-old boy who just wanted a mom and a dad to come watch him play football. Another boy had come into foster care because of neglect, and another mentioned that he gets made fun of at school because he does not have a family.

Her involvement with this cause and getting to know these children may have convinced Izaguirre to adopt a foster child of her own one day, as she hinted that “there has been a child growing in my heart for a long time.”

Her best advice for journalists? Work hard, show compassion and have a good attitude. “I can tell you I’m not the smartest one in the batch, but I am the one with the best attitude,” Izaguirre said. “And that has gotten me far.”