

Rebecca, Peru

Rebecca, 16, is from Peru. She has a 20-year-old brother and two step-sisters, who are 11- and 13-years-old. Rebecca has had no contact with her father since she was a baby.

When Rebecca was 7-years-old, she started dressing up like a boy to wash cars with her older brother in the streets. He was then 11-years-old. She worked ten hours a day, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., for \$1.50 US dollars a day instead of going to school.



David (left) and Rebecca (right) in NY for Round Table on Child Labor, Education and the MDGs, September 13, 2005

When she was nine-years-old, a nun found Rebecca on the street. She brought her and her two sisters to live in a house with other children and nuns. They see their mother on the weekends. Their mother does not have a house. She moves from one friend's house to another.

Now, Rebecca is fine, but she is sad for some of her girl friends, who are still working on the streets, as prostitutes. Rebecca never worked as a prostitute. She is enrolled in eighth grade. She wonders why she received help to leave the streets and resume school, while her friends are still working there. She dreams of someday being able to help other street girls.