

Maria Mena is the 2009 winner of the TASA "Create a Card" contest.

Ms. Mena has participated in the TASA Program since August 2007, and she is the proud mother of a two-year-old daughter, Jeilyn. As she says, "I have been a teenage mother for two years now. I thank God for giving me my beautiful daughter who is such a treasure. I know that my lovely child will bring me years of immense pleasure."

Ms. Mena is on her way to achieving self-sufficiency through her commitment to her daughter and her education. She is a Brooklyn high school graduate who is pursuing the Bachelor's Degree in Human Services at the New York Institute of Technology. Following her graduation in 2011, Ms. Mena plans to work with children.

TASA (Teenage Services Act) is a citywide program dedicated to providing services to pregnant and parenting teenagers under 21 years old. For the past 23 years TASA has helped young mothers and fathers achieve their goals.

Contact (212) 676-7500 for more information.



itasa **NYC**
Teenage Services Act **Children's Services**
Making a commitment to the future



Card by: Maria Mena



*As we stand together, you a young mother
Now I, a new mother, alone with my daughter
We can compare all that is important to each one of us
The love of our children surpasses all other.*

*For now, all that we do for them is just.
Striving to give them a life without pain
Reinforcing dreams of health and wealth,
We wish them to gain.*

*Maintaining our heritage and
Keeping our culture alive,
Can help them walk forward
With joy and pride.*

*I hope that you will experience
The same kind of love
That I have shared with my child
Sent from above.*

*I wish all the happiness
For you to see
As my daughter
Has meant to me.*

By: Maria Mena