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# ◀ HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH ▶

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*At RNDC, we offer an inclusive and strong family culture that respects the diversity of our associates and business partners. From September 15 – October 15, we will highlight our Hispanic colleagues who have a story to tell about their Hispanic Heritage.*

Name: Reace Smith  
Title: VP Corporate Communications  
Location: Grand Prairie, Texas  
Date of Hire: July 2020



## **What traditions or elements of your heritage make you most proud?**

I love the focus on family. In my book, family also means good food. My parents are from El Salvador and I'm a huge fan of pupusas and our version of quesadilla (a cake product, not what you buy at Taco Bell.)

## **What does “Adelante” mean to you?**

Keep going. Don't let things stop you. Move forward.

## **What advice would you give someone who is attempting to move forward in the face of adversity or challenges?**

Half the battle is showing up. Each step you take toward your goal, regardless of how small, is a step forward. The person slowly walking around the block is moving faster than the one on the couch.

## **Tell us about a person who has helped you move forward in your life/career? I'm**

first-generation American. My parents assimilated to the American culture, but there were still expectations for a first-born daughter. As a kid I had a hard time

reconciling the family expectations and my goals as an individual. My uncle married a wonderful woman, Tia Merie, who is Cuban-American. She had a fantastic career as a trainer at American Airlines and was always my biggest supporter as I pursued my goals. She showed me a strong Hispanic woman could both have a family and a great career. To this day she is my biggest cheerleader, always encouraging me to aim higher.

**Looking forward, what vision do you have for your future and how is your culture part of that vision?**

My two kids, Timothy and Helena, have a glimpse into my culture through our family interactions, but it's not always part of our day-to-day experience. I dream of going to El Salvador for the first time with my husband and kids. We have so much family there and I hope I have the chance to take them while they still want to travel with Mom and Dad. We all need to experience the culture first-hand in my parents' native country. Maybe they'll improve their Spanish while we're at it.

