Upward Scholars offers support and hope

By Linda Prieto, executive director of Upward Scholars

As a young boy growing up in Mexico, Emilio didn’t have homework, much less a cell phone. Today, Emilio, who has overcome a number of obstacles, is enrolled at Canada College. He credits the Upward Scholars laptop program for changing his life.

Upward Scholars, a nonprofit that provides educational assistance for low-income adults, offers its support through a variety of programs. The laptop program provides computers to students who need access to technology to succeed in college. The Upward Scholars tutoring program is another component of the support. It was through the tutoring program that Emilio was introduced to Upward Scholars.

Upward Scholars Executive Director Linda Prieto says the Upward Scholars tutoring program goes beyond traditional one-on-one tutoring. “It’s a lot more than just tuition and books,” she says. “It’s a lot more than just helping the person get through school.”

According to the Upward Scholars website, the tutoring program is “designed to help Upward Scholars students achieve academic success while balancing work, family, and personal responsibilities.” Tutoring is one-on-one at a location that is convenient to the tutor and the student. Students are paired with local volunteers who work with their students one-on-one.

A cornerstone of Upward Scholars support is its tutoring program, in which adults pair local volunteers who work with their students one-on-one. The Upward Scholars laptop program receives critical technical support from the TOSA Foundation, and in support from Upward Scholars, which paid for his textbooks as well as bus passes that covered the cost of transportation to and from college.

In addition to receiving textbooks and bus passes, many Upward Scholars students receive mentorship and coaching. They have the opportunity to network and learn from more successful adults.

Upward Scholars offers support and hope to adults who are seeking a better future. Emilio’s story is just one of many. His success is a testament to the power of education and the support of Upward Scholars.