

**ADOPT A FAMILY**  
**Widener University Delaware Law School**

**THE NEED IS GREAT ~ THE RESULT IS PRICELESS**

Family: Mother, Son (15 yr. old), Daughter (20 yr. old)

At the end of this document please find a heartfelt note from the Delaware Volunteer Legal Services, Inc. attorney providing legal assistance to this family.

Please make your contribution by next **Friday, December 17, 2021**. The Registrar's Office will collect gifts.

When asked what they would "wish" for through Adopt A Family, the family was hesitant and humble in their response. With much encouragement, their wish list developed. Much gratitude for all you can do to make the Holiday Season beyond this family's dreams!

Due to the time constraints, we broke up the wish list between Delaware Law and some alumni. There was difficulty obtaining a list the past couple of weeks based on Mother's availability (working two jobs), using an interpreter, and follow ups to get a more complete list.

Money collection via Venmo [@catherine-kilian-2]

\*please note only one "L" in Kilian

\*for Venmo verification: last 4 digits of cell is 0970

Money collection via check to: Cathy Kilian (drop off or mail to the Registrar's Office)

**WISH LIST**

[Venmo/Check note: "AAF Furniture"]

Money Collection for furniture: Sofa, loveseat, chair, coffee table. [I will use the money to work with Mother to create a cozy space for the family]

[Venmo/Check note: "AAF Phones"]

Money Collection for Best Buy gift certificates to purchase cell phones for the family.

[Venmo/Check note: "AAF Home Goods"]

Money Collection for Bed Bath Beyond gift certificate to purchase curtains, pots and pans, bath towels, sheet set, comforter, and pillows.

For those of you who love the shopping:

\*stocking gifts for Mother, Son, and Daughter.

\*Christmas wrapping paper

Note from the DVLS Attorney providing legal assistance to this family.

I have had the pleasure of meeting with this family, and have been able to get to know them, especially the mother and son. Mother is a friendly woman and Son is doing his best to adapt to American high school.

Several years ago, Mother was living in another country under unbelievably difficult circumstances that grew worse by the day. Mother was abused by her husband, physically and verbally. In the streets, she was constantly accosted, robbed, if she had no money, other forms of payment were suggested. Mother knew it would not be long before she would not return home, and not by choice. She made plans for herself. Driven to desperation, she decided she would, temporarily, she told herself, temporarily, and search out, not only a better future, but a future where she would be able to continue to live and not be brutalized by anyone.

Mother made that difficult and dangerous journey. She cannot even remember parts of it. Fast forward to today. Mother has managed to exist in the U.S. on her own steam, working and living in tranquility, existing quietly and thanking God every day she made it to safety. With the little money she can send to her family, she knows at least they are slightly better off. Her son, though, that was another story.

Mother was forced to leave her young son in the hands of her husband. If there had been any other alternative, besides death, she would have gladly taken it. However, she had no other choice. This child, who has endured so much in his young life, is now navigating high school, and is pretty successful. He is learning English (he has his youth on his side), has a small circle of friends, and is, most importantly, safe, and will likely make it to adulthood. None of this was possible in his home country. Daughter is also doing well, adjusting to their new life.

This family is struggling to get a foothold in this country, their tenacity and bravery, their courage, is frankly admirable.