

Arizona's Children Association 2008 Christmas wish family



 ARIZONA'S
CHILDREN
ASSOCIATION

Protecting Children.
Preserving Families.
Across Arizona Since 1912.

Dear Vantage West Employees;

It is my great pleasure to be writing you this letter in thanks for what you have given to your 'Christmas wish' family. There was such an amazing effort and kindness that Angie and the other employees put into the gifts.

Vantage West chose a family who came to America as refugees. Refugees are people who can not live in their native homes for fear that they will be persecuted. Many refugees have experienced trauma and have been witness to the less pleasant parts of the human nature. This is why this story is so important.

Being granted a refugee visa to the United States is often a lifeline out of refugee camps and a hope at a new start. Despite this, it is not easy to leave everything you know and arrive in a new land with little support. People are not always as welcoming as they could be and there are many roadblocks to overcome. This family has struggled with these challenges.

Yesterday, however, I saw them smile! The kids waited in anticipation busily coloring cards for the people they were not convinced would actually come. Then they saw the truck and they scrambled to find their name on the gifts as the U-Haul door opened. I saw that hope come alive again that the human spirit as many wonderful things to offer. Life was good and some trust in people was restored. This is a much bigger gift than a couch or a scooter, but it was through these things that Vantage West was able to communicate the true spirit of the holiday season.

The Father arrived just after the truck left. I was fortunate enough to get to see his tremendous joy and gratitude. However, my favorite memory of the day was provided by the 2 year old, baby 'K'. She carried to me a blanket she was given. I opened it up and handed it to her. She put it to her face and her eyes shown with pleasure as she felt how soft it was. She flashed me a big smile then stuck her thumb in her mouth and curled up with her blanket. Perhaps that imagine tells it all!

Thank you for all of your wonderful gifts, those that could be seen and those which were felt with the heart.

Sincerely,

Nicolle Trudeau
Arizona's Children Association

