

Date: Sun, 15 Jun 2008 02:05:49 PM EDT

Subject: For Andrew on June 15, 2008

Dear Andrew,

Today is Father's Day in the USA. We remember happily celebrating this day last year with you, your father, your Aunt Becky & Uncle Robert. We had a picnic in the backyard at your father's home in Milwaukee. You were toddling around and playing on the play set with us. It was a beautiful late Spring day. It was great fun!

We are sad that you are not with your father this Father's Day because of what your mother has done: taking you to Mexico in defiance of a Milwaukee County Court Order which gave your father full custody of you, and lying (and continuing to lie) about your father to the Mexican police and courts. Your mother's lies have wrongly involved the Family Court in Mexico in this matter, which was already decided by a Family Court in America. According to an international agreement called the Hague Treaty, the Mexican court system should recognize the Milwaukee County Court Order and return you to your father.

We know that you are far too young to understand any of this. We are documenting and preserving your story (your history) so that someday you can learn the story of this time in your life.

We believe that the two lasting gifts that we have given our children are their "family roots" so they could develop their "wings". We want these same gifts for you and are helping your father give them to you.

We continue to share with our family their roots. This Father's Day we are displaying photos in our apartment here in Milwaukee of your Great-great-great-grandfather Marvin Bennett, your Great-great-grandfather Herbert Bennett, and your Great-grandfather Frank Bennett. These photos are of some of the fathers on your Grandma Richardson's side of the family. We are also displaying photos of some of the fathers on your Grandpa Richardson's side of the family: your Great-great-grandfathers Livy Richardson and Andrew Kerkes, and your Great-grandfather L.S. Richardson.

Also this year we celebrated Father's Day with your father and your grandfather at your Aunt Becky's and Uncle Robert's home. They grilled bratwurst (one of your Grandfather Richardson's favorite foods). Your Uncle Chris called while we were there to wish your Grandfather Richardson and his brother (your father) "Happy Father's Day". Your father shared with us the stories and the pictures/video of his visit with you in Mexico last Friday, June 13. This was the first time he has seen you since last August. You are a beautiful little boy and a wonderful gift from God to our family!

We are especially proud of your father this Father's Day. He loves you so much. He has not and will not give up on getting you back. He is doing the right thing. He is doing what he must. He is doing his best. We pray daily to St. Andrew, your patron saint, that you will be soon reunited with your father here in Milwaukee.

Love and prayers,  
Grandpa and Grandma Richardson