

Tuesday, August 05, 2008

Dear Andrew,

About 1 year ago you were abducted by your mother and taken to Mexico without your father's knowledge. It is hard to believe a year has past. The last time I saw you, was at German Fest, which always takes place at the end of July. Your grandparents, dad, Uncle Robert, and I all went to mass at the festival then enjoyed German food and music. I remember how your dad and Uncle Robert had to push you around in the stroller and let you walk up in the grassy area during mass. You wouldn't sit still. Then I remember carrying you while we walked and looked at the many things for sale in the market area. You enjoyed that. You loved to point at things! Unfortunately I didn't take any pictures that day, but I had lots from previous days along with videos.

Today I will be taking all your baby items to an organization called La Causa. They have many programs and one is a 24 hours crisis nursery where parents can drop off their baby or children at any time during a crisis (stressed out, abuse). Your mother lied many times in the court hearings that she was abused, which is unfortunate, because there are so many people who really are abused or in crisis. Therefore, I decided to donate your baby items to them because of your Mexican heritage. When your parents first separated in Feb. of 2007 in Milwaukee, and your mother moved to an apartment in Mequon, your father offered to help her move, but she refused. Then when he came home he found out she took everything of yours. She even took the quilt I made you. I even asked for it back for your dad to keep for you, but she refused. Therefore, when he had custody of you he had nothing. So he was in a crisis and needed baby items fast. Your grandparents bought a crib and your grandfather and your dad put it together. I went to some stores and bought you everything I could imagine a baby would need. I enjoyed buying everything for you. Then your Uncle Robert and I drove over with the many gifts to present to your father. We sat in your bedroom on the floor opening each item. Then while Uncle Robert and your dad assembled the "under the crib box", I put away all your new baby items. Slowly your dad was able to find more baby items for you and get some donations through a divorced father's support group.

So today I will go to your father's house and pick up a few more items like your high chair, which your dad believes you will be too old to use now. He is keeping the stroller, crib, and other items you could still use. He along with myself, have kept a few special baby items you used, which someday we will pass on to you as a keepsake. I have taken pictures of your other baby items as a memory for you.

It has been difficult for your father to part with your baby items and realize he has missed out this past year in seeing you grow and develop. It has been a rollercoaster of emotions this past year for all of us while you have been away. I believe we will see you again, but the question is just when. I pray for you daily and think about you. I have some comfort knowing you are alive.

We feel your absence like I know you feel an absence of someone important in your life, your dad, but not able to understand it. We all were glad to hear you recognized him at the court hearing in Mexico. However, like you we have to move on and with each sunrise and sunset, and we learn to laugh again and wait for the wonderful time when we will see you again. We hope it will not be long.

Look forward to seeing you soon!

Love your Aunt Becky!