December 15, 2017

Dear Friend,

I wish you could have been in the office when Anet walked in, to see what your generous gifts meant to her.

Anet is a survivor who personifies courage, perseverance and hard work. Born in Mexico, her parents brought her to the U.S. when she was less than a year old and settled in Illinois. She experienced a number of difficulties growing up, and as a young woman, she experienced the trauma of domestic violence. Her loving foster family, who had worked with us to obtain a green card, suggested that she contact CLIA, the only DOJ-accredited nonprofit organization in Lincoln that provides a full array of legal immigration services, for help. There, she learned that Congress had created the U Visa for victims of domestic violence in order to encourage the arrest and potential conviction of criminals, making Lincoln and Nebraska safer communities.

Three months ago, six years after this journey began, Max received the news: Anet’s green card was approved. He had the pleasure of telling her, seeing her glowing face when she came to the office to get it. At last, Anet could breathe easy. Or could she? Indeed, compared to the past 25 years of her life in the US, her situation is vastly improved, but the anxiety is only partially relieved. The national conversation and controversy around immigration has only heightened the fears of Anet and persons like her. What may change next? Will renewal requirements be stiffened? Will the pathway to citizenship remain open? Unanswerable questions remain.

Anet is deeply grateful to be where she is, looking ahead to continued employment at a physician’s practice, raising her five-year-old daughter Ayva, and thinking about nursing school in the future. In five years, she can apply for US citizenship. She says she could only have done this with the support of her foster family, her church, and CLIA, and she prays that others will be so fortunate. You can read Anet’s full story and others on our website under News & Resources.

CLIA prioritizes domestic violence survivors because they are an especially vulnerable immigrant group. With your generous support, we can help more women like Anet who desperately need our legal expertise and assistance. It is only possible for us to continue to serve these individuals without charging them legal fees with your generous gifts. Please consider the cost they would have, if not for your generosity.

With a gift of $500.00, we can complete a U Visa for survivors like Anet.

With a gift of $400.00, we can complete the paperwork for a “green card”, for which U Visa holders may apply after three years.

With a gift of $300.00, we can complete paperwork for a “work card” for one year for three survivors of domestic violence, enabling them to be financially independent.

With a gift of $200.00, we can complete paperwork for Citizenship, for which green card holders may apply after five years.

Continued on reverse →
With a gift of $100.00, we can complete paperwork to file a fee waiver, eliminating the $930.00 cost of filing the U Visa to USCIS.

Each time we receive a generous financial gift, we are energized because we know it means you are partnering with us to provide affordable legal assistance to those who otherwise would not have it. This gives us hope that we will be able to serve the many clients we currently assist and the future clients we know need our legal assistance. You, as our partner, helped Anet and many women like her this year through your generous gifts, whether it was through our fourth year with Give to Lincoln Day, or our July fundraiser at the Zoo Bar, or at a separate time when you found room in your budget to give the gift of affordable legal assistance to people like Anet.

Who are your partners? We are proud to announce that we were able to add two full-time staff members this year: in May, Ms. Mary Choate, J.D. and in October, Mr. Jonathan Rubio, who has been employed by CLIA part-time since March 2015. Additionally, Mr. Timothy Greenwood, J.D. celebrated one year with CLIA this November. Also in November, we welcomed Ms. Allison Starr as a part-time interpreter, translator and office support staff. Each one of us feels honored to serve people like Anet and the community of Lincoln by assisting those immigrants who are most vulnerable.

In partnership,

Max Graves
Executive Director

Left to Right: Jonathan Rubio, Allison Starr, Max Graves, Mary Choate, Timothy Greenwood