

family sacrifice

Lily Santos



Immigrating from mexico



In the early 1990's my father, Gualterio Santos came to the U.S. illegally. He was the oldest sibling and he went to New York to make a living. He did not have any family members, couldn't speak english, and no idea what he was going to do. He ended up selling flowers in the streets to make a living for himself. Many times the police had come and taken his flowers and leaving him with nothing since he did not have a permit to sell his flowers. He then found his first wife and had 4 of my step siblings. Then he decided to move to California with his children.

"I was going to California I did not know how to get there and I ended up in Canada...they asked for papers but I didn't have them so I got a court order date but I didn't know english so I just forgot about it."



—Gualterio Santos

life in california for gualterio




After a couple of years in Santa Ana, California he decided to open up a little flower shop. He ended up splitting with my step siblings mother. He found my mother and they end up dating. They both worked hard to build up the little flower shop. My mother ended up getting pregnant in 2005 and I was born on April 2, 2006. They struggled so much that the night they got married they had to sleep on the floor of their cousins apartment because they could not even afford a mattress.



few years after

A few years later they had even to move to a bigger place for their business. They had my brother on October 7, 2010. Everything was going fine until they decided to try getting papers. My dad had a court meeting and they ended up almost deporting him. Since we knew Lou Correa, a U.S. Representative he helped us getting my dad back home. Three days without my dad and everything was falling apart. There was no one to take business calls, no one to get flowers from Los Angeles, and lastly no father for his children. My mom was stressed because she had to do everything my dad was usually do while taking care of her children. After we got him back save a lot of news companies wanted to interview him. We had a march for him, got signatures, and wrote letters to the Immagrination Center. Luckily he is here but in March of 2021 the court judge will determine if my father, Gualterio Santos goes back to a place where he has not been in over 20 years or gets to stay in the U.S with his family and business. This is a big sacrifice because now we do not know what will happen. Now all we do is wait till the day the next court meeting is. We are all scared but we have each other if anything happens.





Gualterio Santos in New York selling flowers in the streets with a cart

Gualterio Santos now in his flower shop in Santa Ana





My dad, Gualterio Santos and my mom, Sebastiana Santos

All four of us in Las Vegas having fun



Thanks

(Based on a true story)
By lily santos



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