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December 22, 2023

Dear Santa,

I am tired having finally completed all my present wrapping and need to sit down. Henry and Blaise are making Christmas cookies, so I decided to streamline this process for you and create a website instead of mailing a letter.



The year started out great with Cadence dancing on stage at Universal Studios in January as part of a National Dance Team she was invited to join. We extended our visit so we could enjoy some time in Harry Potter World and go to one of our favorite restaurants, Penelope Toothsome's Chocolate Emporium. We later watched Cadence perform in Cape Cod at Dance Nationals with other team members from In Motion Dance Academy. This fall, Cadence joined the Pom team and is excited for the competition season coming up in 2024. This has given me lots of practice braiding hair for her and her teammates.

Blaise went back to Florida to perform with the Midland High School Band at both Disney World and Universal Studios. Blaise accepted a scholarship to attend a STEM camp at Kettering University in Flint. She enjoyed her 2 weeks there and is seriously interested in attending there in the Fall of 2024. After being accepted into multiple universities including one in Hawaii, Blaise has some big decisions to make. She is confident and ready for the next chapter and is eager to pursue a degree in computer science.

We went on a summer road trip to Myrtle Beach with fun in the sun, surfing and parasailing. We also welcomed 3 new pets into our home, although not on purpose. Henry and I spend a lot of our time keeping harmony between our 3 dogs, 2 cats and hamster. There is never a dull moment here and lots of laughter when we aren't jumping the fence to chase after them or rescuing the kitties from the new puppy's game of tag. My one ask for Christmas is that people spay and neuter their pets, because my house can't fit any more rescues.

Henry and I continue to serve as organists at Holy Family Episcopal Church and I have taken on leadership of the Board at River Jordan. River Jordan is a non-profit that serves as a Forever Family for Foster Youth, providing peer support and transitional housing for youth who have aged out of the system. I love mentoring these young adults and helping them learn how to thrive.

As for me, I am learning how to move forward without my mom. I think about her every day and love reflecting on our happy times together and hearing her laugh. It is in her memory that I devote my time to my family and serve as family for those without one through River Jordan. The love, comfort and support from my family and friends keeps me going and for that I am very grateful.

Sincerely yours,

Debbie Rothe

Blaise and Cadence's Mom

Pet Handler to Lily, Timbre, Corbyn, Calypso, Ophelia and Lugnut