

My childhood was filled with terror, poverty, and violence. When the war occurred in Somali, my home country, I had a traumatic experience of witnessing some of my family being killed in cold blood and unkindness with the hand of terrorism. After seeing the chaos getting worse in our city Mogadishu, My father decided to escape and flee to wherever we could find safety. My family and I left everything as we fled our home, in Somalia, to somewhere we have never been before, Ethiopia. We walked for days, eating no food and only drinking water. On this journey, we were vulnerable to the wild animals in the desert, but Our Lord saved us from harm. Finally, we arrived at the refugee camp in Ethiopia where we received a warm welcome from people who provided us our daily necessities. When we came there, the United Nations welcomed us by warmly providing us with urgent aid including our shelter, food, and education.

Additionally, we adopted this new lifestyle and my mom started to sell vegetables and fruits to buy our school supplies and uniforms. When my mother traveled for work, I would take care of my younger siblings. I would take care of the shop while she was out and still go to school. It was very hard to do by myself, but I was a person who had deep hope in the Lord, my family and myself. I believed that one day our hard work would pay off and we would get a better life than the one we were in. We started to apply for resettlement interviews in the refugee camp. My parents did their best to provide everything we needed in life through those tough situations. We eventually got the opportunity to interview and we passed. My family and I are now in Texas, all thanks to this country and my Lord who has provided us safety, education, freedom, and job opportunities. How could I be who I am and where I am today without the trials and tribulations that I have faced? Before, I would give up when I was even a little discouraged and would be scared of everything. I was just a little child with no hope. Fortunately, the hardships I faced have influenced me in a way that I could have never imagined.

I want to pursue a major in International Studies. After graduation, I want to seek a position in the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, located in New York. The DFW area has multiple organizations dedicated to welcoming refugees. My dream is to immerse UNT students into the existing refugee services in order to reach more people who have left their home countries. This would include working together to establish a network where the community can donate money, food, clothes, and other necessary items for refugees. I want to start a program for UNT students to volunteer at refugee services in the DFW area, in order to make the transition for refugees easier. Just as World Relief served my family during the most difficult time in our lives, I want to serve the community in the same way. These scholarships would help me to achieve my goals of giving back to my community and making a difference.

If I could, I would also create my own Organization that aims to help families specifically in the process of resettling. I know from personal experience, a refugee who is new to America has many questions, worries, and fears. When my family first arrived in America we did not know how to do simple things such as how to buy food and do laundry luckily, we were able to meet such amazing people who had the desire to help us. My family's transformation inspires me to become someone that will be able to make a change in other's lives.

-Nura Ibrahim