



## MEET LORI

I am a single mother of two children and have been in San Jose, CA for the past 2 years. My daughter's father just moved to San Diego in March, leaving me with all the monthly expenses. My son's father moved to Placerville, CA about 6 months ago. My son spends every other weekend with his father so we meet in Stockton every Friday night (it is the half way-point between San Jose and Placerville) for drop off. Then, I drive all the way to Placerville every other Sunday to pick up my son. The cost of driving is about \$400 in gasoline every month. Not to mention the wear and tear on my van.

About a year ago, my son was having problems with ear infections. He missed a lot of school and we needed to take him to the doctor on a regular basis. The problem persisted so my primary care physician recommended that we see a specialist at Stanford. That doctor recommended surgery for my son which resolved the ear issues. Unfortunately, my insurance did not cover the full cost of the medical expenses so I have significant amount of medical costs to cover.

I work at the YMCA as a Child Care Site Director. I am very passionate about the work I do there and my background is in childcare. Career wise this is a great place for me to be. Unfortunately, the pay at a non-profit organization and in the childcare field is rather low. I strive to make my monthly expenses but some months are very difficult. Since my son's ear surgery, I've been having problems meeting my monthly expenses. I currently have an open case for child support and custody with both children's fathers. I am hoping that they will be able to help more with the monthly expenses. Meanwhile, I still have monthly bills I am unable to pay.

It would be fantastic to have the opportunity to go back to school so I can further my education and apply for a higher paying job. A bachelor degree in child development is my long term goal. But more importantly, I need to be able to take care of my children's basic living needs. Helping me to pay for my basic living needs would assist me in bettering my credit. As I stand now, my credit doesn't allow me to qualify for low income housing, even though my income does. Because of my credit history, I have chosen not to use credit cards but to work strictly with my bank account.

Thank you so much for your work.

Sincerely,

Lori