

November 8, 2018

< Name >  
< Address >  
< City, State Zip >

Dear < Salutation >,

*“My son still cries. We both have nightmares. **How can you live when your child is dragged away from you? How can you protect him, hug him, laugh together, and wipe away his tears?”***

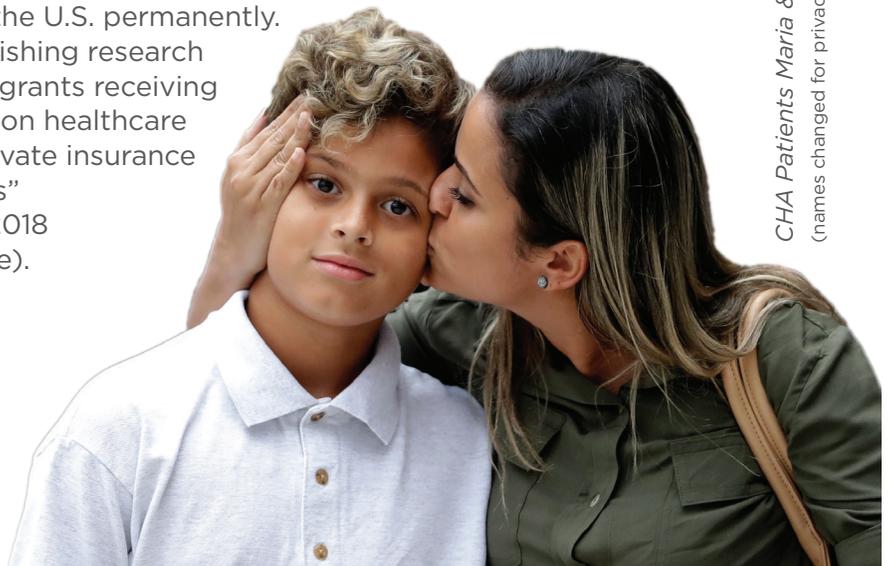
**These are Maria Mendez’s words about being separated from her 9-year-old son, Gabriel, at a border detention center, after fleeing from violence in Brazil.** It wasn’t until many months later, after the family separation policy was suspended, that Maria and Gabriel were reunited and moved to Massachusetts. They had no family, no work, no home – only fear and trauma. “I was very scared,” said Gabriel, “I just wanted to be with Mamãe.” Gabriel still wants to be by his mother’s side – he doesn’t want her out of his sight.

In Revere, where Maria and Gabriel are now living, CHA jumped into action to help. Arranging healthcare enrollment, transportation, interpretive services, primary care, school physicals, dental care, and behavioral health services, CHA providers and staff worked together to ensure quick access for Maria and Gabriel. “Gabriel is so much better now and is attending school. For me, the CHA Victims of Violence program has been so supportive and helpful,” said Maria.

In addition to coordinating care for reunified families at CHA, staff and providers are promoting social justice for immigrants by responding to changes in the “public charge” policy that make it harder to settle in the U.S. permanently.

CHA providers are preparing and publishing research to quantify the impact of fear on immigrants receiving healthcare and set the record straight on healthcare subsidies. “Immigrants pay more in private insurance premiums than they receive in benefits” (published in *Health Affairs*, October 2018 by Dr. Leah Zallman, CHA Primary Care).

CHA Patients Maria & Gabriel  
(names changed for privacy)



*Continued on reverse*

Please tear off this portion and return it in the reply envelope.

**Yes! I'd like to help make a difference in patients' lives!**

- \$250** helps us care for homeless patients
- \$500** provides innovative services and seamless behavioral health and primary care
- \$1,000** provides much-needed resources for patients in need of addiction treatment
- \$2,500** helps us care for victims of violence and other vulnerable populations
- \$5,000** helps us support our vital emergency services
- An amount of your choosing** \_\_\_\_\_  
Any and all contributions help patients most in need including immigrants

Your gift is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

FY19YEM

Put your gift to work faster! Make a secure gift online at [www.challiance.org/DonateNow](http://www.challiance.org/DonateNow).

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- I have enclosed a check.**    **I'm an employee. Sign me up for the employee payroll contribution program.**

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_



*(Pictured from left to right) Members of the CHA Immigration Committee: Alex Pirie, Coordinator, Immigrant Service Providers Group/Health; Lara Jirmanus, MD, CHA Primary Care Physician; Sarah Primeau, CHA Community Relations Manager; Ahmed Nur, CHA Financial Services Certified Application Counselor*

This family’s story, along with many other families that CHA has been working to stabilize, is heart-wrenching. It is simply unimaginable and unacceptable to have to live every day in constant fear and panic – but so many of our patients do. As the immigration debate continues around the country, CHA is reminded every day of its role in serving the most vulnerable in our communities. Despite the challenges, CHA remains steadfast to its mission to “improve the health of our communities.”

You make it possible to support our patients and neighbors the best we can, caring for their health and healing their hearts. Thanks to your generous gifts we can continue to serve and care for all. We ask that you consider making a gift by December 31, 2018. Please send in your gift by year-end or contribute online at [www.challiance.org/donatenow](http://www.challiance.org/donatenow) today to put your donation to work right away to help families like Maria and Gabriel Mendez receive the best care available.

Your commitment to CHA’s mission helps us to provide the services our neighbors need most. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for giving generously to support CHA’s work in helping build healthier communities. We wish you a joyous holiday season and a very happy and healthy New Year ahead!

Warmly,

**Mary Cassesso**  
President, CHA Foundation  
and Chief Community Officer  
Cambridge Health Alliance

**Patrick R. Wardell**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Cambridge Health Alliance

### We appreciate your support. Thank you once again!

Cambridge Health Alliance is a vibrant integrated health care delivery system dedicated to providing essential services to all members of the community. It also provides a vital safety net for underserved and vulnerable populations facing barriers to care. CHA patients receive high quality care in convenient neighborhood locations, and have seamless access to advanced care through CHA’s affiliation with Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

CHA’s community commitment extends beyond serving its patients. CHA collaborates with many local agencies and organizations to provide programs that improve the health of local residents. As a teaching hospital of Harvard Medical School, Harvard School of Public Health, Harvard School of Dental Medicine and the Tufts University School of Medicine, CHA trains the health care providers of tomorrow.



CHA Somerville Hospital  
Foundation Office, 5th Floor  
230 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143

[www.challiance.org](http://www.challiance.org)