

Rennan has been a true blessing to our family. He came into our family March 9 and we were forever changed for the better. Rennan really is like a big brother for my boys. An accomplished blacksmith and all-around Renaissance man, the boys chose him because of his artistic talents. Art- all types of media- is something he has in common with our oldest boy and he is showing him how to have ambition to make a business out of your gifts.



Rennan didn't just join our immediate family, but also has a strong connection with the rest of my family, especially with my older sister- who has been almost a surrogate mother to him. I almost think he missed her more than the boys and me when he went home to Brazil for Christmas! Our family even flew together! (See the video of him "flying" in the attached zipped file.)

He joins in extended family events. He's a talented photographer, designer and creator of all things! He went out of his way to ensure Vernon's 8th birthday celebration (Harry Potter style) was as authentic as possible He made a setup for the kids to play Quidditch, Owl Post, dementors and countless other crafts to make the day great! He also helped to host my (Mona -host mother) birthday party by preparing delicious food! (I forgot to invite his girlfriend- so he politely excused himself from my party and when to spend the day with her. I was hugely embarrassed- but he was thoughtful and kind. Our family has really benefited from his good heart, as well as his culinary skills and creative talents.

Rennan made it possible for the boys to travel with me on an extended work trip to Denmark, watching the boys while I worked and exploring Danish culture in the evenings/weekends. He made lots of friends

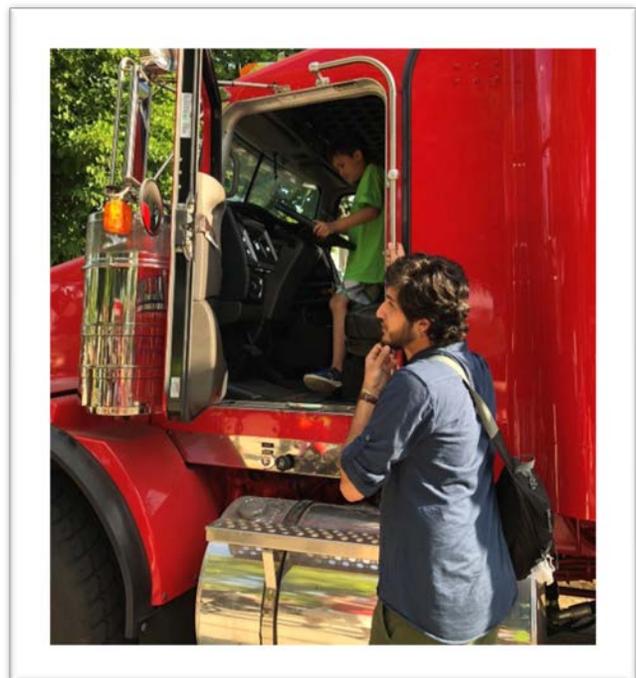
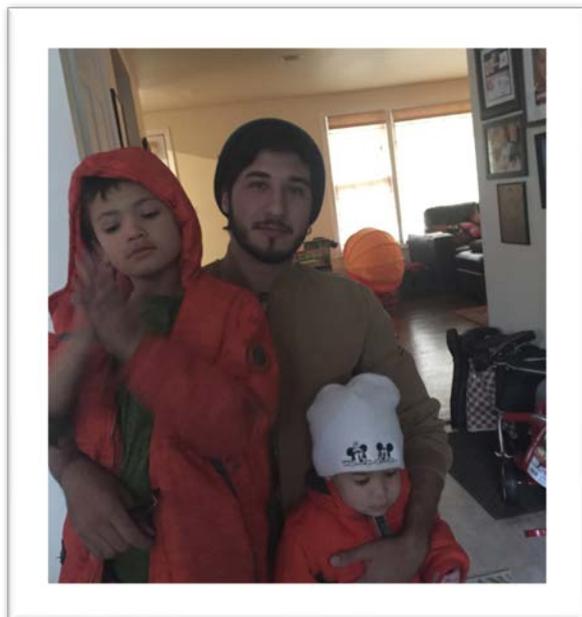


while in Denmark. And I had the peace of knowing that I could come home to my boys each while on extended business trip- and to hear the tales of all the fun things they did around the city.

When it came time to choose a program for his education requirements- he had high standards. For him, it was critical that he choose something that would help him move forward. He wouldn't settle for a quick weekend program to fulfill the minimum. He wanted a certificate or something that would go toward an advanced degree. So he chose the global leadership certificate from Willow Creek Association, endorsed by Wheaton College. He spent two days learning about leadership alongside myself and several of my colleagues. The he completed an additional workshop and a series of assignments to earn the certificate. During this time, he and I had lots of conversations about our philosophies on leadership and how each of us can do better. It was fun to witness this work and growth in him and see how it impacted his interactions with my children and those around

him.

There's no doubt in my mind he was meant for our family. He has been a wonderful support and has been the anchor and stability for my boys in a time of significant change in our family- not an easy situation to come into. He's been a trooper and a caring caregiver to all of us! We adore him and he should be the Au Pair of the year!!!!



[Click here to see a fun video of Rennan!](#)

