



## **The ERIKA M. Family**

*A TIPS On Art collaboration with Foundation Communities*

Foundation Communities has paired us with a unique family this year and we feel the deepest gratitude to now know each of the members of this sweet family. It is our intent here to describe them as individuals and as a family so you, too, can know and support their goals, ambitions and current needs/wishes in this Holiday Season. Erika is a single mom with two sons, Jorge & Jacob.

**Jacob**, the youngest, has physical and developmental disabilities due to Cri du chat Syndrome (a rare genetic disorder). This Syndrome necessitates frequent trips to the doctor due to frequent fevers and a lower immune system. Jacob requires feeding via a feeding tube five times per day. And though he is six years old, he has only begun to walk this year. Keeping him stimulated and engaged to encourage his development is a family priority.

**Jorge** is a gentle and intelligent young man with a clear vision of what he wants to do in his life. At 16, he considers himself shy but we can tell from our interactions with him that he quickly opens up in a safe environment. He knows his interests involve skate boarding, construction, electronics and cooking. He wants to be a construction manager at some point and would appreciate any mentoring he can come by. He is really enjoying learning about electronics and technology in school. And with an uncle working in the restaurant industry, he has come to love learning about food and preparing it. He likes to cook Mexican and American foods. He enjoys reading about history and World War II. Jorge originally requested that no items be selected for him because he would like his mom to receive as much help as possible.

**Erika** is a very hardworking mom - she works during the day as a house cleaner and provides care for Jacob's medical needs. Her demeanor is positive and genuine and she is without a doubt committed to providing the best life possible for her boys.

This is a kind-hearted, tight knit family who very much rely on each other.

**Family Statement:** We truly need help due to our limited funds and resources. As a family, we enjoy going to the park, to the movie theater, watching movies together, going to the river and window shopping to look around. We have a dream of owning our own home in the future. I am thankful for this program for being able to give to my family what I have not been able to give. Thank you so much! God bless.

**Family Household Needs:** Day bed, bedding & soft pillows (so Jorge has his own place to sleep ... this daybed will be in their Living Room since they are currently in a one bedroom apartment), Medium size stock pot with lid, cooking spoon, spatula, ladle, baking pans, TV (approx. 32" ... TV helps calm Jacob while Erika prepares his food), sturdy/stable high chair for Jacob (remember, he is 6 for appropriate size), small step stool, broom, toaster, blender (to prepare Jacob's food), coffee maker (Erika starts her days at 4:30 a.m.), under bed storage containers, door shoe organizer, toilet paper, tooth paste, toothbrushes, liquid laundry detergent, 13 gal kitchen trash bags, Ziploc bags, foil, plastic food wrap, white shower curtain, grey bath towel sets, iron for ironing clothes, chip clips (for sealing food bags)

<b>Relationship</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Pants</b>	<b>Shirt</b>	<b>Shoes</b>	<b>Coat</b>
<b>Mother</b>	ERIKA	34	NA	S	7 1/2	S

**Wish List:** Compact Umbrella (black), Tennis Shoes, Casual Winter Jacket (zip front, shorter style & black preferred) with Pockets, No-show Ankle Socks (black), Earrings (for pierced ears), Bracelet, Watch (prefers mid-size, silver with digital face), Shampoo (Head & Shoulders with almond oil), Hair Clips/Clamps, Perfume (no too strong), T-shirts (black & white), Dress (black, mid-length), Cowgirl Boots (small heel, pointy toe, brown), Queen Sheet Set & Soft Bed Pillows (2), Western Style Bracelet (turquoise or horseshoe perhaps / silver preferred)

**Favorite Colors:** Green & Black

<b>Relationship</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Pants</b>	<b>Shirt</b>	<b>Shoes</b>	<b>Coat</b>
<b>Son</b>	JORGE	16	NA	L	9 1/2	L

**Wish List:** Van's Slip On Chex Skate Shoe Black & White (the Van's he had on the night we met the family were coming apart on the outside sole), School Supplies: mechanical pencils & fine tip black pens, Winter Coat (soft, reflective features preferred since he walks a lot), Gloves, Crew Socks (patterns/designs preferred), Pajamas (comfy sweat pants style, still loves everything Marvell!), James Avery Ring (Emerald is his birthstone), Bucket Style Hat (seen a lot at skate parks ... loves to wear hats!), Cookbook (Southern cooking), Bed Pillow (standard – soft), Cologne, Cards Against Humanity Game, Game of Life

**Favorite Colors:** Bright Accents Colors that pop against black / Turquoise / Mid-Blue

**Favorite Snacks:** (wants to get fit this year so he did not ask for any specific food snacks ... he eventually wants to go to Gold's Gym where his Uncle works out!), Gum: watermelon & tropical flavors, Vitamin Water

# TIPS On Art Holiday Family Adoption | 2018

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<b>Son</b>	JACOB	6	NA.	NA	13	6

**Wish List:** Toddler Bed with Sides, Rubber Ducky, Large Diaper Bag (not back pack style), Wipes (need lots), Therapeutic Chew Toys (Special Supplies website has lots of great options!), Nipple Style Sippy/Transition Cup, Winter Coat, Pajamas (he loves Spiderman, Mickey Mouse & Iron Man!), Tennis Shoes, Socks, Interactive Toys (with sounds, ABCs & Shapes ... those typically geared to toddlers)

**Favorite Colors:** Red / Green

**Favorite Foods:** (Erika usually blends packages of frozen vegetables for his feeding tube)

**Family Favorite Foods:**

Fast, Easy & Healthy Preferred ... likes spicy things too!

Pasta / Spaghetti

Pasta Sauce

Smooth Peanut Butter

Strawberry & Pineapple Jelly

**Family Favorite Places To Go For Fun / Family Favorite Places To Eat Out:**

Watch Movies (at theaters & at home through Play Station)

Play Board Games

Park

**Favorite Places To Shop (gift cards appreciated!):**

Wal-Mart

HEB

Target

**Holiday Meal Preference:**

Ham (smoked ... not sweet)

Sweet Corn (canned ... Mexican style)

Mashed Potatoes

Carrot Cake

**Thank you for your interest & support for the TIPS On Art Holiday Family Adoption Annual Community Service of Giving Program. This is our 26<sup>th</sup> year of making new friends and uplifting their lives through our holiday giving efforts. And we could not be successful in changing lives without your support! Which is why our motto has always been ... we are better together! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!**

**NEXT STEPS/DATES TO REMEMBER:**

***Time is short till Christmas is here ... so please act immediately  
if you are moved to support this effort!***

**A. Gift Donations Drop Off & Family Gifts Wrapping Party Location:**

6017 Abilene Trail  
Austin, Texas 78749

Donations: Leave On The Porch & We Will Find Them! Call Ahead If You Need Us To Meet You or To Arrange A Pick Up. *All Donations Must Be Received By Thursday, December 13th.*

- B. *Wrapping Party: Friday, December 14th from 6:30-8:30 p.m.* ... soup & refreshments served.**  
**C. Family Gift Deliveries: Monday, December 17th. If you would like to join us, give us a call!**

***For any questions please call Donna Wetegrove at 512.288.4897 or email to  
tipsonart@yahoo.com.***

***Go to [www.tipsonart.org](http://www.tipsonart.org) to make a donation online via PayPal.***

***Checks (made out to TIPS On Art) and cash accepted.***

***If you work for a business who matches your donations, we are set up with Benevity.***

***Donations also accepted through I Live Here I Give Here.***

***100% of all donations support TIPS On Art programs.***

***We are grateful for all of you and this opportunity to serve our community together!***

***"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, to all the people you can, as long as you ever can." - John Wesley***