



## A Migrant's Dream

*Habiba Elmasry*

My husband and I made the decision to move from Egypt to America in hopes of a more secure life. We came with the dream of building a life most people in Egypt only imagine, but people in the West take for granted. Secure job. Good education for children. Safety for children from political turmoil. And an escape from the rising cost of living which we could not afford anymore because of unstable economy. So we sold most of our belongings, packed only the essential items we needed and left for California.

We picked California because the weather is moderate here and the Muslim community is welcoming. We wanted to be a part of a community so we don't miss home as much.

By the time my husband found a job in Orange County we had almost run out of our savings. Our kids joined school, my husband started going to work full-time, I started babysitting to increase our income and everything was starting to look positive. Then my husband lost his job. He quickly found another job but it ended up being a fake company. They took almost all of our savings and wasted more than a month of his time. Suddenly we couldn't pay our rent or electricity and we completely ran out of our saved money. The apartment told us we had to move out or the cops will come to kick us out. I didn't know this can happen. I began to have anxiety attacks and spent a few nights in the hospital. When my kids noticed my stress, it effected their schoolwork.

Finally, my husband found a job but it was paying very low. We still didn't have enough to pay rent. We went to the masjid to ask for help and they told us to call Uplift.

Uplift helped to bring our smile back. I was so worried but Uplift told us we should relax, and we will come up with a plan together to make sure we are never without a home.

Uplift helped us with rent and electricity so we can keep our apartment and helped me to find a better part-time job. Alhamdulillah we are both working again, my husband is making more money in his new job and we don't call Uplift for help anymore. We call them to say hello only.

Allah is great and sent Uplift to our family. I love the California community.