

Leslie Aponte
63 Oak Hill Ave
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To whom it may concern,

My name is Leslie Aponte and I am proud to say that I am Nicholas Aponte's mother. I don't mean any disrespect by using the word "Proud" simply because I very well know the Pain that was caused by the crime that was committed almost 17 years ago. To the family of the victim David Horan, I just want to let you know that the man that I visit twice a week for the past 17 years, is someone that any mother would be proud of today.

Somewhere along the way throughout the past years, I have become the student in our relationship and Nicholas has become the teacher. Nicholas is one of the smartest and most caring individual that I know. I go to him for several things such as advice, knowledge, and understanding. I go to him because of all of these qualities that he possesses. All of these qualities he has taught himself, within the compounds of those prison walls. He has never let those prison walls consume him.

He has stayed positive and has educated himself in all aspects of life, from humanity to his academic skills. Nicholas has not spent his life sentence trying to get out. On the contrary he has continued to educate himself and has accepted his punishment to the best of his abilities. I've paid for his education for in which he is currently going for his bachelor's degree. Which is by far more then I was able to accomplish, for this I am also very proud of him. He has achieved what I couldn't do; I have no High School diploma because I had him at the age of 16.

Nicholas currently works in the infirmary of the facility and also with hospice. He said to me one day how he was so proud to be in the same room with people whom were taking their last breath here on earth. That he was proud to be there with them and let them know that they were with someone that truly cared. This is the person that makes me so proud.

He has also said to me that with all of the experience that he has taking care of others, he would make sure that no one else would ever need to take care of me when I get older. While no one truly wants to get old, I look forward to that time in my life in which I can spend my last days on this earth with my son by my side.

Nicholas wants to become a nurse when he comes home. As well as volunteer a lot of his time with those in need. I will try to do all that I can in order to help him accomplish this dream. I have watched Nicholas grow up in prison. Seventeen years of his life out in the world and the other seventeen years locked behind bars. I believe that the prison system should be proud of the person that he is today.

Nicholas has raised my grandson from within prison (his son Devin Aponte). Sending his sons mother Carey Capola whatever money he makes within prison. It's a shame to say that there are men out there that aren't fathers, those that don't pay child support or even there for their children including his father. On the contrary he has been there for Devin since he went in, when Devin was a baby.

My grandson has always known who his father is from infancy. Its bitter sweet to think that his son is 18 years old since august of this year. He is now older than his father was when he went into prison. Devin loves his father to death and would do anything to make his father proud of him. He has always looked up to Nicholas, never looking down at his father at any point of his

life.

Devin is so happy to be 18 years old now because he can go see his father whenever he wants to, without having to be limited with only going with me. I have met many people in all of the time that Nicholas has been in prison. Both employees of corrections and inmates that let me know that I should be proud of my son. There is so much more that I would want you to know about Nicholas. However it would take so many more words. If Nicholas came home today he would have the love and support of so many, many people. That love him, but no one could love him as much as I.

Thank You. Sincerely,

Leslie Aponte