



Keeping Our Promise Inc.



**PATTY AND BILL LEAR:
SUPPORTERS SINCE 2016, AND
NOW MONTHLY DONORS**

**"To give up your country is the
hardest thing a person can
do." (Garrison Keillor)**

A note from Patty Lear:

I have been a volunteer for **Keeping Our Promise** since 2016. People used to ask me, "Why do you volunteer?" and I would give the standard answer:

"I volunteer because it makes me happy to give to other people." But now I say: "It's a privilege to be a giver instead of the receiver." Being in the position of a giver is really not through my own actions. Instead it's because I was lucky to be born in America, lucky to have a middle class upbringing, lucky to have a dad who was very giving to others and to be taught by his example.

Aws and Hiba

My husband Bill and I were also lucky enough to meet an SIV named Aws, his wife Hiba, and at the time their two little precious girls. Forming a friendship with this family taught me many things about another culture, different from our own. We were being introduced to new customs, new foods and new holidays. We realized that we are all the same no matter where we are from or what religion we honor. Together we got to know this family and had many good times eating at each other's homes and sharing stories about our families and customs.





We witnessed the resilience of these hard working SIV families overcoming all odds, living on very little, never complaining, yet still accomplishing their goals. Many families have worked hard logging volunteer community service hours to earn cars so they can find a job and get to work. Men and women are taking educational courses, earning degrees while also raising young children at home, and the ultimate accomplishment of becoming American citizens!

Lear Stables, Mendon, NY

This brings me to my daughter Amy (right), who graciously runs a horseback riding program at **Lear Stables** for the SIV children in our community. I love looking at the faces of the children while riding their horses, led by patient instructors and volunteers. What fun for the children who also got to be real kids at the summer camp, playing games on the grass, climbing trees, kicking a ball around, working at the craft tables; all the while forming new friendships.

I have learned that a small monthly donation to **Keeping Our Promise** can pay for many things and have a great impact on our SIV families.



I will leave you with this quote from the American writer, Garrison Keillor:

“To give up your country is the hardest thing a person can do. To leave the old familiar places...and learn everything over again, different from what you learned as a child. To learn the new language that you will never be so smart or funny in as your true language. They are heroes ... showing by their struggles how precious beyond words freedom is, and if we knew their stories, we could not keep back the tears.”

Garrison Keillor

Update From Aws: When we came to Rochester Hiba was pregnant, I

had no job, no money, no hope, and living in a nasty place. I heard about Ellen Smith and sent her an email. She immediately replied, and within a day volunteers gave us food, clothing, gift cards and furniture. She helped us find a better place to live.

One of the volunteers was an angel named "Patricia Lear." During that time Patty and her husband Bill Lear were such great advocates who were behind us all the time. Hiba and I went to MCC in 2017 and graduated December 2020. Now I have a degree in Cyber Security. Hiba holds a degree in culinary arts, and is a licensed chef with her own Instagram account featuring her cooking. This credit goes to the support we received from our friends at **Keeping Our Promise**. Our next step is to find jobs for both of us and to give back to this community.

KOP Note: You can find Hiba's creations at: [Chef Shahrazad](#)

*Monthly giving is essential for **Keeping Our Promise** to continuing our life changing work for those who served the U.S. in Iraq and Afghanistan, **and it's easy!** Can you help with \$20, \$40, \$60 a month? Any amount adds up to making a difference in the lives of our wartime allies who choose to make the Rochester region their new home.*

Continue our mission! Become a monthly donor now!

www.keepingourpromise.org

888 Pittsford Mendon Center Road, Pittsford
NY 14534 United States

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