

Zakia Mohammadi

What America means to me

My name is Zakia Mohammadi. I am from Afghanistan. I am a student at Utah International Charter School. I will never forget the year 2020, the day that the Taliban took over my country. My family and I were forced to leave everything behind and move to the United States to be safe. It was one of the most difficult times of my life. When the Taliban completely took over Afghanistan, girls' schools were shut down across Afghanistan. This was devastating news to many girls, including me. When I heard that girls were no longer allowed to attend school, I felt terrified and shattered. I thought my education and my dreams were over.

When I first arrived in America, I was still carrying the fear of not going to school. I believed I might not be allowed to attend school here either. But when I arrived in Utah, that idea of not going to school changed for me because I was registered at Utah International Charter School, the first school that I ever went to in Utah. I still remember how excited I felt walking into a classroom full of students who had the same story as me. And I know in that time that it was more than a school that I was attending, but a second chance at building my future.

Since coming to America, my life has completely changed. I have learned a new language that I always hoped to learn back in Afghanistan. I have adapted to a new culture, met new people, and grown stronger and more independent through every challenge. Every day I learn and move closer to a better future.

To me, America means freedom and opportunity. It is a country where people are given a second chance to build a better future for themselves, regardless of their background or life story. It stands for independence, the idea that any individual can make their own choices and can follow their own dreams without being judged, especially for girls and women. Here, girls have the right to attend schools, unlike other countries that don't allow them. America lets women and girls speak their voices and pursue their dreams. America also gives you the ability to live without fearing any injustice. gives you the choice to choose your future. Americans allow any kind of person to go to school freely, speak their mind, and have equal opportunities like anyone else. Most importantly, being saved, especially when you come from an affected place by war and conflict. America makes you feel safe without worrying about any conflict. Allowing you to focus on education and not on facing danger.

Now that I have been living in Utah for 5 years, I can see how much I have grown and changed as a person. When I first arrived, everything felt unfamiliar: the food, culture, and language. But over time, I have adapted to this country. I have become independent and free. Living in America has allowed me to focus on my education and improve my English, as well as learn new skills that I could not achieve before. America has greatly changed my life by opening new doors that were once impossible to open. Moving forward, I am motivated to continue my studies, graduate, and attend college. My dream is to pursue a career in computer science where I can learn how to design technology and even create my own apps \. Being in America has given me a chance to turn these dreams into real goals. And I am determined to work hard to achieve these goals.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my application for a scholarship from your organization, which I'm truly grateful for. This opportunity represents a life-changing step forward for both my family and me and would really support my educational and career goals.