

Interview with Reckha Jeyanthan

Reckha Jeyanthan is from Sri Lanka, which is known as the Pearl of India. She is one of 12 children and the first in her generation to attend college. War and poverty took over her country and they struggled to get food. However, she knew that she wanted to study. Reckha won the Diversity Visa Lottery which gave her and her husband green cards. They arrived in North Carolina in March 2015. Everything was a challenge and Reckha being 3 months pregnant did not make things any easier. The first 10 days in North Carolina were very sad. They struggled with the food, learning the culture and the language. They meet a woman when they first arrived in North Carolina, but she was not able to help them because Reckha was pregnant. They really needed help getting Reckha to a medical center for doctor's visits for her pregnancy. They ended up walking for 10 days in North Carolina when a woman noticed that Reckha was pregnant and decided to help her get a doctor's appointment and even gave them money for it. They tried looking for jobs, but they had a hard time finding any. Reckha's husband was able to contact a friend from Sri Lanka that gave them a phone number for someone that could help them in the US. The family who was able to help them was in New Jersey. Reckha and her husband traveled by bus to New Jersey. When they got here, they had to look for an apartment. It was very hard for them to find one but luckily, they met someone who was able to help them. they found an apartment in East Orange and Reckha had her baby. They then moved and that is when Reckha found Middlesex College. She was welcomed with open arms. Being at Middlesex has helped her become more independent and motivated her. Reckha is currently a math major at Middlesex, and she is using this experience as a stepping stone for her future.