

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Maria de Jesus Salazar Sanchez and I am the mother of Jose Angel Valladares. I would like to explain the motives for which my family came to this country in order for you to understand why my son wishes to play soccer. We came from Michoacan, Mexico. The reason we moved for our immigration is due to the fact that we were not allowed to work, and what little money we earned was extorted by members of organized crime syndicates. The cartels did not allow for teachers to go to the communities to give classes. My children were affected by this situation and were very upset that they were not allowed to continue their education. They would tell us about the activities of the cartel members, which made me fearful for their safety. I decided to sell our house in order to move here and asked for the government of the United States to give my four sons and me political asylum. I am forever grateful that we are here now because I no longer have to worry about the safety of my children. I understand they they are struggling to learn English and integrate themselves in their new school. My son Jose was affected by the delinquent activities of organized crime in Michoacan, but he has received much support at North Salem High School. I believe that he wishes to participate in soccer in order to further assimilate to his new surroundings and think that it would be of tremendous help if he were allowed to do so. The more my children become involved in their new community, the easier it is for them to forget the painful memories of our lives before. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Maria de Jesus Salazar Sanchez

Translated by Joaquin Peralta