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To: sherrymaillady@mymailstation.com
Date: 11/24/2007 7:02:20 PM
Subject: Gina & Jenna

Hello there!!

I hope life is bumping along as smoothly as possible back there in Maine... Life out here in California is not much different except there's no threat of snow to worry about... I don't know when or how you heard about Jenna & I moving to California but I'm sure you are not as shocked as we were to make the choice to leave. I don't know what Dad has told you about this trip so I will give you the basic information to get you up to speed.

The strong tornado-like storm that blew through Windsor on Sept. 26 was so bad that it toppled several dozen trees in my mobile home park – two of those trees came down on my home and both our cars totaling both cars and destroying my bedroom ceiling. Because it was impossible to buy 2 more cars for \$2600 that my insurance company paid me, Jenna and I decided that we did not want to struggle to survive in the state of Maine anymore. We took the insurance money for my car as well as my paycheck and other bits of money and we flew ourselves and our 6 cats to San Francisco California on October 23, 2007. We settled at a Berkeley hotel for 10 days until we found the house where we now live in Walnut Creek. It's a small 3bedroom house in the center of town but it's still in a residential neighborhood. It's a 'funky old house' and reminds us a great deal of the types of places we have called home back in Maine. It has a working fireplace which we use daily as the temps in the winter months drop to the middle/high 30's out here , we also have 2 outdoor covered sitting areas, and a large backyard with a 50' eucalyptus tree which is serving as an umbrella for our house from the scorching sun that seems to never go away... One thing I do miss about Maine is the unpredictable weather patterns that must be endured – in California I find myself wishing for a rainy day or something other than 'warm and sunny'... but I don't wish for it enough to find it again... at least not yet... ☺

Jenna and I are actively seeking jobs that will make us happy as well as pay our bills. I am awaiting a conversation with the Executive Director of a women's homeless center in Berkeley. She is looking for an Assistant Director and I believe I would be a huge positive influence if I'm given this job... I expect to hear this week if I am a candidate. I have stopped by the center on 2 different occasions and introduced myself to both the volunteer coordinator as well as the current assistant director. When I encountered the assistant director I was unaware of who she was for the 15-20 minutes while I was talking with her and then realized on my drive home that my conversation with her may very well have just guaranteed me the job... it's difficult to understand why I say this so I'll just leave that as a cliffhanger until my next email... I'm sure I'll have some answers pretty quickly as they are advertising this as a 'critical vacancy'"...

As far as Jenna – well, what to say?? She is getting comfortable with the environment, the different ways of life and abundance of opportunities that are now available... it is overwhelming, to say the least... now, all of a sudden, there is endless activities to choose from as well as various groups of all ethnicities, cultures and beliefs... every bit of it being the reason we came to this part of the country – to experience something that does NOT exist in Maine and never will... we have, however, decided that if we leave California our destination will be Maine again as there is no place like it in the country...

Although we are unsure about how long we will be here or what we will do while we are here, we have decided that we owe it to ourselves and everyone who has helped us to try to make it work. I am excited about the new truck that Mom & David helped me to buy and the funky little house that Dad & Raye helped us to rent... we now have a home and transportation for whatever we will need and simply need to secure one of the many jobs that are available ... with our work ethic and Maine background it will not be difficult for us to find something...

In closing, I hope you are all doing as well as can be expected and create a little bit of happiness with each day...

With love,

Gina & Jenna