



## FAMÍLIA ANDRADE

José Manuel Lourenço de Andrade - 27-02-1965  
Maria Isabel Luís Lopes Andrade - 14-06-1971

Samuel David Lopes de Andrade - 31-07-1989  
Paula Raquel Lopes Andrade - 20-11-1994  
Anabel Maria Lopes Andrade - 12-12-1996  
Rafael Henrique Lopes de Andrade - 11-09-1998  
Miguel Luís Lopes de Andrade - 13-03-2003  
Abel Filipe Lopes de Andrade - 10-12-2010

Dear ELFAC friends,

We are extremely happy to present to you the Andrade family, chosen among many other applications, to compete for the “Large Family of the Year 2015” award. There were other strong candidates, but this testimony really made an impression on us. The short life story was submitted by one of the children, Anabel Andrade, and we believe it truly embodies the experience of a large family going through its daily challenges and struggles in finding ways to overcome them by coming up with a solution together. They show not only an incredible inventiveness in doing so, but also a genuine concern for others that reflect values such as: loyalty, kindness and altruism. We must also mention the constant availability the Andrade family always shows to help and support our Association and other families that ask for help within our network. This is a look into Andrade’s family, seen through the perspective of their daughter, Anabel:

*“My parents are originally from Lisbon, where they got married and where Samuel, my older brother, was born. Since my father was in the military, we lived 11 years in Madeira Island. That is where I, Anabel, and my brother Rafael were born. Afterwards, we lived in Azores for 8 years, where my brother Miguel was born. My parents had 4 children when Social Security asked us to raise 2 orphans. We decided we would all help, but only if we legally adopted them. In order to fulfill the financial conditions for adoption, we created a small family company that produced and distributed frozen vegetarian meals (K-Bom). We all happily helped, and we did it singing. Our neighbors called us the singing family. We had a lot of success and even sold our products to large supermarkets. Another important condition we had to fulfill for the adoption application was getting a bigger house. We built a house from scratch based on my parent’s project. We all loved to sing, but me and Rafael also loved to dance. Since we had the talent to do so, and in Azores we couldn’t develop that potential, we gave up our growing business and all the family moved to Lisbon so we could attend the National Dance Conservatory. We all make sacrifices for each other and help each other when it is necessary. Each member of the family is deeply involved in community projects, such as: teaching classes, giving talks and conferences about domestic finances in municipalities across Portugal, and also in Spain; actively engaged in the local Church, for example: visiting the elderly in neighborhood, youth leadership and animation of leisure activities; free handcraft workshops to the elderly in our parish; we have created and developed a project to repair medieval garments kept by the Ministry of Education that involved more than 25 voluntaries; another project that aims to help slave children in Ghana in partnership with the Sons of the Heart Association; producing and directing historical recreations in collaboration with the Historic Society of the Independence of Portugal. Our latest project, still in development, is the creation of an e-book about how to feed a family in times of crisis.”*