

CHILDREN'S AID AND FAMILY SERVICES

LEARNING TO TRUST AGAIN

A STORY ABOUT ADOPTION



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The agency has five group homes for children and adolescents in foster care who are healing from the deep wounds of their traumatic childhood experiences, and are not emotionally ready for the commitment of living with a new family. The group homes are staffed by caring professionals, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, who make sure the children attend school every day, eat meals regularly, get to their doctor and therapy appointments, help them with their homework and take them to their after-school activities. The group homes offer a highly structured and safe place to live, helping each child to begin the difficult task of trusting again, and living in a family-like environment.

When Tanisha entered the agency's care at the tender age of 6, she had experienced a tremendous amount of abuse, neglect and trauma in her young life, and is neurologically impaired as a result. She distrusted adults, because she had always been abandoned by the people who were supposed to care for her. She was extremely impulsive and aggressive, as a result of the abuse she endured.

After living in one of the agency's homes for several

years, and learning to express her feelings in a constructive manner, improve her social skills, and be more aware of other people's feelings, Tanisha met Beverly, who was interested in adopting a child and as such was interning at the group home. Beverly instantly adored Tanisha, and developed a strong relationship with her after many visits. She adopted Tanisha in May 2005.

Today, Tanisha has made huge strides socially and academically. Since living with Beverly, her reading level has gone up more than two grade levels, and she can do computer research. She has a group of friends, and can do the things most girls her age do, like shopping and having slumber parties. She competes on a swim team in the Special Olympics, and has won several races.

"I'm extremely grateful to Children's Aid and Family Services, because they taught Tanisha that the world can be a safe place, that not everyone hurts people, and it's okay to trust," says Beverly.

All names have been changed to protect client privacy. Please visit our website to see the many other children in need of a loving family.

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