

# *Adoption Stories*



York Region  
Children's Aid Society



*“Every Child is Adoptable”*

# “Every Child is Adoptable”

## Introduction

*The stories contained in this booklet are the compilation of adoption stories that were sent to all staff to celebrate adoption week in November of this year (2018). Adoption workers gathered this information so that agency staff could read the stories of children and their adoptive parents finding each other in their forever homes.*

*Adoption is one permanency option when a child comes into our care. Everyone at this agency who has been involved in these children’s lives, either directly or indirectly, has contributed towards matching these children with their new families. It is hoped that these stories will inspire all of us to remember that no child is unadoptable.*

*\* Children and adoptive parent’s names have been changed out of respect for confidentiality.*



# Nathan's Story

*Nathan\* came into care as a toddler when he was two and a half years old. While he lived with his foster family, he was able to access a great deal of support services to assist in his recovery of severe neglect. He was assessed for autism, but it was ascertained that the symptoms he was displaying were in fact due to trauma.*

*Nathan had a younger brother who was brought into care. A foster family was caring for Nathan's brother, and they began to get to know Nathan through sibling visits between Nathan and his brother. The foster family asked if they could care for Nathan, who at that time was six years old. The foster mom had a background in psychology and child development and had volunteered with two Children's Aid Societies to help create a program to support parents with their parenting skills. The foster dad was a teacher. With their various skills these foster parents would be able to support Nathan's specific needs.*

*When Nathan was ready for adoption his Children's Services Worker, and his Adoption Worker, met this family. Shortly after, a transition plan was made, and Nathan began visiting with his new adoptive family. Being adopted by his new family meant Nathan and his brother would be together permanently, where they both gained two sisters in their new family. Nathan is now seven years old. He continues to be thriving and benefits from our continued support and is happy with his forever family.*



# Eddie's Story

*Eddie\* came into care when he was two and a half years old. He continued having visits with his parents while he lived with his foster family. When he was eleven, Eddie became available for adoption and the search began to find a forever family for him.*

*Eddie's Adoption Worker presented him at the Adoption Resource Exchange (ARE) and as soon as one particular family saw him, they knew they were looking at their son. The family had been involved with York Region Children's Aid Society for about three years and had been patiently waiting for "their" child.*

*Eddie is now fifteen years old. He is part of a beautiful interracial family and has gained an older sister and a future brother-in-law, as well as an extended family in Toronto and Quebec. Eddie has also since reconnected and keeps in touch with his younger sister, who was adopted by her foster family.*



# Brooke, Maya, and Tristen's Story

*Brooke\*, Maya\*, and Tristen\* came into care when they were eight, four, and two years old. They lived together with their foster family for three years. When the siblings were presented at the Adoption Resource Exchange (ARE), their prospective adoptive parents immediately connected with Brooke's photo. They then saw a photo of Maya, and realized the two were sisters, followed by a photo of Tristen, and realized he was their brother. There were three children together for adoption! The couple had always wanted more than one child, so when they saw the three siblings, they instantly knew they were meant to be a family of five.*

*The foster family worked hard to encourage and support the children's transition to their new home. This included a lengthy transition period as everyone involved was mindful and respectful of the children's attachment to their foster family, and the time each child needed to settle into and adjust to their new family. The adoptive family shares the children's religious beliefs and cultural background and has a lot of support from their large extended family.*

*The children have all adjusted well and are excelling in school. Brooke is now in high school, has her first part-time job, and opened her first bank account.*



*Brooke recently attended a mission trip through their church with her dad. The children also keep in touch with the foster family.*

*It is amazing that we were able to keep three siblings together. There were multiple expressions of interest wanting to adopt these three children, so we know there are families out there that want to adopt siblings. We just have to keep looking. We never know what families are out there until we try.*



# Tyler's Story

*Tyler\* was born prematurely with a rare genetic condition that resulted in skeletal abnormalities, hearing loss, seizures, heart defects, and intellectual disabilities. Tyler came into care at birth and had frequent contact with his birth parents. He lived with his loving foster family and benefited from support and follow up from Sick Kids, his local pediatrician, and the York Region Early Intervention Services Premie Pathway Program. Due to Tyler's health challenges and possible unknown future complications, when he was a year old, his parents decided it was in his best interest to be adopted by a family that could meet all of his needs.*

*Kate\* and Norah\*, as the prospective adoptive parents, first saw Tyler's photo on the AdoptOntario online database and instantly felt that they were looking at their son. They travelled from Ottawa to attend the Adoption Resource Exchange (ARE) and immediately headed to the agency's booth saying, "Please tell us more about this child".*

*Tyler's foster mom and the Adoption worker were both at the Adoption Resource Exchange (ARE) and had the opportunity to meet this family. Within a few weeks, Kate and Norah were officially selected as Tyler's adoptive parents. Because they lived in Ottawa, they came to Toronto three times to meet and visit with him prior to him moving into their home. Tyler's*



*foster mom traveled back to Ottawa to help settle Tyler on his first day in his new home. He was eighteen months old when he was officially placed with his forever family. Kate and Norah had an adoption practitioner in Ottawa to oversee and support Tyler's transition and help finalize the adoption.*





# Grace's Story

*Grace\* was admitted to our care when she was eleven years old, as a result of her parents' capacity to care for her and her two older sisters. Grace always wanted to return to live with her parents. However, last year it became clear that this was not likely to occur. Knowing how much Grace longed for family life, her Children's Services Worker suggested the idea of adoption, but at sixteen years of age, Grace thought she was too old to be adopted. Grace really wanted to have a family of her own, to care for her and that she could grow up with.*

*Her photograph was presented at a Parent Resources for Information, Development and Education (PRIDE) training session with foster, adoptive, and kin families. One of the foster family applicants attending immediately connected with Grace's photo and decided they wanted to adopt her.*

*This family, along with three short-listed families from the Adoption Resource Exchange (ARE) submitted a video to Grace answering specific questions she had asked. This provided a way for Grace to "meet" each family and learn more about them to help her decide who to move forward with. Due to Grace's age, it was very important for her to be involved in*



*selecting her adoptive family. When Grace saw the video of the family who attended the Parent Resources for Information, Development and Education (PRIDE) training session, she instantly felt drawn to them and chose them as her adoptive family.*

*Grace has since met her prospective adoptive family in person and has had multiple visits with them. She is very excited to join the family where she will have three new siblings. This family recognizes and respects that Grace may want to keep in touch with her birth family.*

*Parent Resources for Information, Development and Education (PRIDE), is a mandatory training course for all adoptive applicants in Ontario. The course is designed to address the common learning needs of all group participants, regardless of their specific adoption plans.*



# Owen's Story

*Ten-year-old Owen\* came into care when he was fourteen months old. At three years old he was identified as having autism. As soon as he was ready for adoption at three and a half years old, we immediately began looking for an adoptive family for him. Owen was presented at the Adoption Resource Exchange (ARE) multiple times with no success. We remained very committed to finding him a home.*

*From the first time Rob\* and Dave\* saw Owen on the AdoptOntario online database, they knew they were looking at their son. After hearing more about Owen at the Adoption Resource Exchange (ARE), they came forward wanting to adopt him in February, 2013. Owen was six years old at the time. Rob and Dave were selected as Owen's adoptive parents. Today, Owen has loving parents and visits with his birth family about twice a year.*

*Like Rob and Dave, there are families out there who are open to adopting children and youth with special needs. We just need to find them. Our belief remains that no child is unadoptable. Even when it seems challenging, we are determined to move forward by exhaustively searching for the right family for a child. If we had not kept trying, Owen would not have his family now.*



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