

Birth Parent Testimonial

Dear Foster Families,

I am a birth mom who was involved in the child welfare system. I want to share a little about how I felt before, during, and after my son was in foster care.

I was a young single mother who was overwhelmed and frustrated. I was having great difficulty parenting my overactive son. I was trying to support myself and my son by working a lot of hours. I would get home very late and have to go back to work early the next day. I got to a point that I did not have any time for either of us. I began to do things that I still regret. My frustration got the best of me.

One day my child left for day care and did not come home to me. He had been taken from me because of some things I had done. I was frantic because I did not know where my son was and did not have any contact with him for over 2 weeks. During that time I felt that a part of me was lost and I did not know if I would ever get it back. I felt upset and depressed and thought, "What have I done?" I felt I had nothing to live for. I made it through only with the support of friends and the love I had for my son. I knew I wasn't a bad person and that I had made mistakes, but I loved my son and wanted to do what was right. I just needed help.

My son first went to a shelter and then to a foster home. He was not happy and I did not have good communication from the first family. He then went to another foster family that helped both my son and me. They seemed to care how I was doing as well as meeting my son's needs. We started working together on the relationship between my son and me. At first I was mistrusting and not sure how things would go, but we were able to have a relationship that still goes on today. I was grateful to be able to be supported, but I still wanted my son back. I worked really hard and finally after almost 2 years in foster care, my son came home to me.

I have had my son back for 3 years now and I met a wonderful man who I have since married. I now have a second child and together we parent both children. I am grateful for the support of my husband, and all those who took the time to help me along the way. It wasn't an easy road, and I wish I never had to travel down it, but I am a better person for it.

As you consider becoming a foster parent remember that birthparents do love and care about their children. Please try to understand the circumstances the child's parents are going through. With compassion and love in your hearts for the parents as well as their children you will be an important part of rebuilding a family.

Thank you for listening.

A Birth Mom