

YOU CAN TRANSFORM A LIFE TODAY!

## Blessed Through Adoption in So Many Ways!



**M**y husband, David, and I were both adopted as infants, as well as our siblings. Nine years ago we were married and immediately tried to start a family but had no luck. After several fertility procedures, I did become pregnant, but miscarried. At that point, we decided that adoption would be our best option. We wanted to give a child or children the unconditional love, security and other blessings we had in our lives.

We started the adoption process through private adoption because we wanted a healthy newborn baby, as do most couples. We played the waiting game but nothing came our way. Then my Mom had a friend of hers approach her about a little girl with some severe medical problems who needed a home. When we met her in June 2002, it was love at first sight! After classes and obtaining our foster/adoption license, Caitlinn joined us in October and we adopted her on June 19, 2003. Despite her medical condition, Caitlinn still needed a family, a home, and to be loved!

Caitlinn came to us at the age of two, and was developmentally a year and a half behind. She did not talk, but used sign language. She was on oxygen all the time (which was recently stopped). She could barely walk and needed speech, physical and occupational therapy. She was in and out of the hospital with pneumonia.

Now, Caitlinn is very much a “typical” 8 year old in a “typical” second-grade class and gets very good grades! She does not need therapy anymore and has a bigger vocabulary than most adults do! She has not been hospitalized in over two years and is a very active. She has been taking dancing lessons for five years and made the dance team last year, is in Brownies and cheerleading. She does not let her disabilities stop her from doing anything! Love definitely has the power to heal!

When we were ready to expand our family, we went to Adopt America

*It was a little scary at first, but now it is just a part of our everyday life. Caitlinn was born with a rare genetic lung disease called Jeune's Syndrome. The disease does not allow her chest to grow, but all of her organs grow normally. When she was one, she had a rib expansion surgery to expand her airway. She has a trachostomy and is on a ventilator at night. She gets aerosol treatments every 4-6 hours. She also has a feeding tube due to gastric reflux as an infant. But I am getting ahead of myself and our story.....*

Network and started the adoption process all over again. In October 2006, we were blessed twice! AAN called us about two-year old twins from Florida who had been in foster care since birth because of their drug exposure. In December we met Jordan and Josilyn and again, we fell in love! They were absolutely beautiful! Though neither twin talked, they warmed right up to us and had smiles that lit up the room.

Both had hydrocephaly, asthma and acid reflux. Josilyn did not walk, had mild cerebral palsy and had a nasogastric tube because she would not eat and was not gaining weight. Both were born at 25 weeks and weighed 1 lb. 10 oz. At birth, Josilyn also had the worst brain bleed possible.

Jordan and Josilyn had a very rough start in life, but they now have us – their forever family. The adoption was finalized on August 23, 2007.

Over the past year, we have seen many wonderful changes in them. They are both talking. Josi, whom the doctors said might never talk or walk, is talking non-stop and walking all over the house. She is gaining weight and growing out of her clothes faster than we can buy them. Both have recently started preschool and are doing very well. They are great children, with very different personalities. Jordan is

very much a “Mommy’s boy” – he loves to help, is strong-minded and protective of his sisters. Josilyn has a very sweet disposition, is very soft spoken – but she is also sneaky! Both are very affectionate children who love to be cuddled. Caitlinn is a wonderful big sister and loves the twins more than anything!

Adoption has touched and blessed our lives in so many ways – David and I, our siblings and now our children. Our children may not have grown in my tummy, but they grew in the most important place, in our hearts!

### How You Can Help

Adopt America Network has helped place over 3,400 children with loving families in the last 24 years – 909 in the last 4 years without charging fees to families. You can help in two ways:

- Share your love, talents and time by adopting a child and giving them a family of their own to whom they belong.
- Donate to Adopt America Network so that we may help more waiting children find their forever family that they deserve.

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Please visit [www.adoptamericanetwork.org](http://www.adoptamericanetwork.org) to learn more about the 129,000 children who through no fault of their own have been abused, abandoned or neglected. They wait on average over 3 years in the U.S. foster care system for someone to pick them out and cherish them.