**Adoption Changes Lives**

When I have time to myself I think about what I would like in a permanent family. It's not easy to constantly move from place to place. I think it's important for a kid to have a permanent home because kids can have a great experience of doing the stuff they never got a chance to do with their biological parents.

0:38

I felt that I was ready to be a mom and I think my intuition told me it was time and I wanted to adopt.

0:48

It was the best decision that we ever made. It was a big decision and the whole process of adopting was worth it because what the end result is our son and that's incredible.

They give you love unconditionally you know waking up in the morning and finding a child who is excited to see you and give you a hug makes you excited about life again.

1:09

They’re my kids. I love them. I couldn’t love them more if they were biological. We fit.

1:25

The benefits of adoption really are reciprocal. The child does gain so much by having a loving family who is there for them forever, and the adoptive parents really do gain a lot as well.

1:38

Adoptive parents come to us all the time and are telling us how they can't imagine their lives any different, they can’t imagine their adopted child not being a part of their family.

1:50

It was just an email initially that we got, and from that email I knew that he was our son something about – oh I’m going to get emotional –

Its powerful, and it touches you. It was incredible to know that when David was there, he was our son and we knew it right from the start.

2:12

It can be very rewarding when you see how children have gone through very difficult times to be able to see them blossom

They're able to succeed they’re able to live out their hopes and dreams

2:28

Pretty much every three months I moved to a new school or something. It just took me so long to get used to it and by the time I did get used to it we had to move again. Now just thinking you actually get time to get used to things. It’s just, like awesome.

2:49

You always have somewhere to come back to. If you want you can go out, but you can also always come back to that one place, and it’s your home.

2:58

I think I've gotten a little more outgoing than I was before because I know I was extremely shy. When a new person came I hadn't known before I was like ‘oh my gosh it’s a new person, I’m going to go hide in my room or something’.

3:15

They do well in school, they're able to form friendships, they discover strengths in themselves and talents that perhaps hadn't been shown before.

3:28

It’s incredible to watch those changes. To see him grow up and move through crawling, walking and then starting to talk. It’s amazing.

3:34

I know he’s going to come out and give me a hug in the morning and that's something that I don't think he was doing all time before.

3:42

Kids thrive on security and need security. They need to know where their home is they need to know who their parents are so that they can go out from that secure base and go out and explore the world and learn about the world.

3:55

That's the one thing I find most important for any human being really is support and emotional support from a loving and caring family.

4:09

Every child deserves to be loved, to be adored and to have a family. That's what we're looking for. We need foster and adoptive parents in Kitchener, Waterloo and Cambridge to come forward and to hear about our programs and to see the beautiful children that we have available for adoption and foster care.

4:25

When we were in PRIDE training there were about 10 families all wanting to adopt, and we were the only ones wanting to adopt an older child.

4:40

It's heartbreaking. I mean you really you wish you could just take them all in. I can’t imagine going through your whole life and not having a family. Everybody thinks it's so scary and that all these kids are damaged but a lot of them just haven’t been given a chance.

4:56

I think there is the misconception out there in the community that our children have a lot of issues or a lot of problems. But really our kids are great and if you spend any time at all with our kids you'll see that shine through.

5:12

We are trying to place a child with a family who is willing and able to commit to that child for life: single parents, same-sex couples, unmarried people… we're open to a wide variety of families.

5:29

What really helped us through that process were the people that we are working with. The worker that we were paired with was supportive and helpful and was able to listen to us and understand us and helped us bring our dreams and our hopes one step further into reality

5:43

They were just excited and enthusiastic. I felt that they were right with me.

5:47

I feel very grateful to Family & Children’s Services. They gave me my family which is most important thing in my life, and without them that would never have been possible. the people were great

5:57

The people were great, and after the fact it's been nothing but support. Whenever we've needed no matter what kind of support it was it was always there.

6:09

We really value our foster and adoptive applicants at the agency and we'd love for you to come forward and to hear more about our programs and to hear more about our kids.

6:15

If you're thinking about it just pick up the phone and call there's no need to wait. Just call and get your questions answered and maybe we can get you on the road to fostering or adoption.

6:23

We were out one day bicycling when that my daughter was about 5. She suddenly seemed to fully recognize what had happened and what the different is that adoption had made. She just turned to me and said “mom so you actually rescued me” and I said “well, you know, I found you and we’re family now” and she just looked into my eyes and said “thank you”. You can’t imagine the difference that you can make to a child.