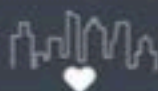


# JOURNEYS

STORIES FROM THE STREETS AND BEYOND



LITTLE FOOTPRINTS  
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



LOVING HOUSTON  
ADOPTION AGENCY



After almost a year of not being picked by a birth mom, there were several people and instances that led us towards an agency who rescues children off the streets. Loving Houston Adoption Agency (LHAA). Their goal is to rescue these children from a life of neglect, poverty, abuse and hopelessness. Some of the mom's voluntarily place their child into a safe environment through LHAA.

## MADE TO LOVE

We learned that there was a huge need for families to step in and help rescue these kids...so why were we waiting on a newborn baby when there were so many kids waiting on a family??? It was a question that shook us to the core, tested our hearts and faith, made us ask deep questions and took us to our knees in prayer....

We always said we never wanted to foster a child because we didn't want to get attached and have to give them back. And what would it do to our biological boys?

But if we were made to love, to be the hands and feet of Jesus, regardless of someone's background and story, then we needed to step up. We all have a story and you may never know the extent of someone else's story but why not love them anyway? So, we moved forward and were able to get licensed pretty quickly.

## THE CALL THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING

Only 2 months went by when I received a call. I was in the grocery store at 3 pm. It was the director of our agency and she said "Carie, I have a situation, can you talk?" I knew this would be "the call." Everything in the store seemed foggy as I heard her tell me she had two little girls (biological sisters that were 2 & 3) and they had been in her office since 11am and needed a place to stay that night. Not going to lie, my first thought was "I'm sorry TWO girls and how old did you say?" My youngest son was 3 yrs old... this would be interesting. I called my husband and he did not even hesitate to say yes. We went and picked them up and began a whole new journey.

## FIGHTING FOR OUR DAUGHTERS

After our first two weeks with them we found out they were available for adoption. We knew the cycle had to stop there. We would spend the next 14 months fighting,



and I mean FIGHTING, along side the agency for these little girls and their well being. It was not easy. It was a major faith builder and one that could only be described by a "BUT GOD" statement. It was extremely emotional and if I'm honest there were days I just wasn't sure how it would all end... Trauma had taken it's toll but we dug in our heels and fought for their healing.

FINALLY, on a special day in April 2015, we walked into a courtroom and made these precious girls (3 and 4 years old) our DAUGHTERS! For the first time they had a secure and loving forever family and they were THRIVING and had made HUGE PROGRESS. We were beaming with joy and so were our boys. They were thrilled to have sisters and to make them a part of our family forever.

## AN UNEXPECTED BLESSING

We could finally breathe, the weight had been lifted and now it was time to just step back and bond even more as a family of six. Well...so we thought.

May 16th I received yet another call saying the girls' birth mom was homeless yet again and she needed a place for her 6 month old baby to stay (YES, our daughters FULL biological sister). Of course our answer was yes...it would only be a few weeks anyway and how could we not love this baby that we had been praying for while she was in the womb. The next morning I went to pick her up and was totally over-joyed.

Those few weeks have now turned into almost ten months and what a crazy journey it's been in itself. You never know where God will call you to but remain faithful and obedient and He will see you through. As for the sibling, we don't know what the future holds for this sweet baby but God does and that is all that matters.

*"Rescue those being led away to death, hold back those staggering towards the slaughter."*

*-Proverbs 24:11*

