

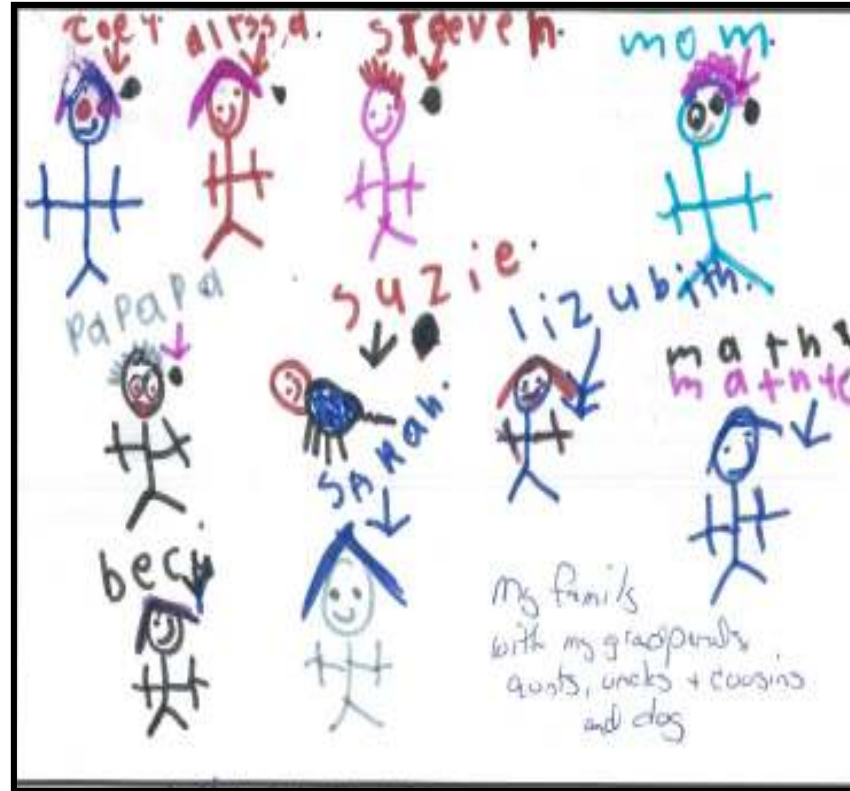


Tessa
Age 8, 2013



Living with my Grandma and Grandpa (Grammy and Papa) has benefitted me in many ways, like my Grades! I have improved a lot in my grades because my Grandma and Grandpa help me study. I went from being held back a grade to being one of the best readers in my school! Also I used to move so much that it seemed as soon as I met a friend I had to move again. Now I have been in one school for three years. You can obviously see that living with my Grandma and Grandpa has positively affected my life.

Mollie
Age 12, 2013



Alyssa
Age 6, 2014



Clarence
Age 11, 2014



I do not live with Mom or Dad, Dad lives in Florida and Mom is kind of sick. I live with Sara and Ole, they are my Aunt and Uncle. I love living with them because they do fun stuff! They help me how to talk. They take care of me when i am sick. :(I love to go out to dinner with them. They help me with my homework. I go in first grade.
The end.

Debra
Age 7, 2015



I live with my grandparents, Life with them is "OK", if you know what I mean, Sometimes I get angry with them because I don't always get what I want, But they still provide me with clothes, food, and a roof over my head, They give me a lot of chores but they make me do chores so I will get used to it. I need to get used to doing chores when I grow up and have my own house, We go to church every Sunday and Wednesday, I get an allowance which is five dollars a week. We can't have cats or dogs at our house so my sister has three parakeets and I don't even know how many fish I have because my fish had babies. My Grandparents aren't perfect but I love them.

Genesis
Age 10, 2015



Hope
Age 5, 2016



What They Wanted – What We Got

They wanted: grandchildren born healthy and happy.

They wanted: to be able to put a few dollars away for retirement.

They got: bills taking care of children that weren't theirs.

They wanted: to have grandchildren on weekends and holidays and spoil rotten then send home.

They got: three of us all the time to parent and teach and discipline and fight.

They wanted: temporary custody so mom could go to rehab then we could go home.

They got: full custody with no end in sight.

They wanted: to be able to retire and spend time together, to relax and enjoy life.

They got: to retire early to take care of us; doing homework, and conferences, and carpools, and PTA.

They wanted: laughter and hugs and love.

They got: scowls, and muttering, and disrespect, and theft, and attitude.

They wanted: peace, and calmness, and order.

They got: chaos, us always fighting with each other, and our stuff left everywhere constantly.

They wanted: appreciation for what they were providing.

They got: I want cell phones, laptops, notebooks, name brand clothing, and more and more and more.

They wanted: "you're the best grandma and grampa ever."

They got: "you're not fair, this sucks, and I hate living here."

What we got: unconditional love, and everything we ever needed, and a chance to grow up and have a good life without drugs, without alcohol, without abuse or neglect. We were lucky. We got them.

Beverly
Age 17, 2016



Living with my grama and papa is the best because, they are always with me, they get me to school and back and they take care of me. They always buy food when we run low. They can keep me healthy and safe. They get me thing's I need and they love me. They always keep their promises, that is a very inportant thing. They gave me a home, when my mom didn't. I love them very much.

Abigail
Age 7, 2017



Rosmarie
Age 12, 2017



Voices of Children 2018

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