



*Voices of Children 2018*



Annual Voices of Children  
In honor of  
**FIFTEEN YEARS**  
of kinship children sharing  
their feelings about living  
with their relative caregivers,  
this section contains entries  
from previous years. Thank  
you to all of our wonderful  
children and their incredible  
**KINSHIP CAREGIVERS!**



**Amanda**  
**Age 5, 2004**



The innocence of my childhood was stolen from me. I saw more horror in my 1<sup>st</sup> 9 years than most see in their whole lives. But when I moved to my Aunt & Uncles, my innocence, and a chance to be a child again was handed back to me.

The six years I've lived with my Aunt & Uncle have been filled with joy, tears & treasured moments. I've been blessed with a chance to change my stars & break the cycle of fear & mistrust in my background. While living with my mother I was a lost, fearful little girl. I knew about the drug-deals and crime that went on in our house. How could I not see it? Now, I'm a 16 year old who knows what she wants in life with initiative, an open mind, a love of life an understanding born out of blood, sweat and tears. Without the talks, lectures and groundings, I wouldn't be the person I am today. I can't thank my Aunt & my Uncle enough. I am who I am because of them and I don't know what I would of done if they hadn't rescued me.

**Sarah**  
**Age 16, 2004**



Roses are red  
Apples are sweet  
I love Grandma  
And she Loves me!

**Chloe**  
**Age 6, 2005**



Grandma  
Feeds me  
Warms the house  
Buys clothes for me  
Provides safety for me  
Takes me places:  
Haircuts  
Dentist  
Doctor  
Hospital  
Soccer games and practices  
To see brother and sister  
Teaches me words  
Teaches me not to play with fire or  
gasoline  
Talks to me  
Cares for me  
Hugs me  
Kisses me  
Wrestles with me  
Plays games in the care with me: license plate poker, slug bug,  
Cadillac whack.  
I love you grandma!!!!!!

**Kylee**  
**Age 10, 2006**



Living with my grandparents has made a positive difference in my life because before I was living in a home that was not healthy. My father had temper and I was constantly yelled at. At my Grandparents I am much happier. I'm not near as stressed as when I lived with my parents. My Grandparents have provided me with many things that I didn't have before. I now have many new clothes. I have a car and am able to actually drive it. I feel much safer and cannot even explain how much happier I am here. I have so much respect for my grandparents because they willingly took me in and if they didn't I don't know where I would be or what I would be doing without their love and support. I hope to one day repay them for all they have done for me.

**BreAnna**  
**Age 19, 2006**