



Living with my grandma and grandpa makes me feel safe and loved.

When I lived with my mom and dad, I was scared a lot. I had a lot of bad dreams. I was very hungry a lot. Now I am not.

When I first lived with my grandparents I would hide food under my bed. I would not go anywhere with out my sister and my grandfather was very nice and told me as long as I was with them I will never go hungry and nobody will hurt ever hurt me. I have been here for 5 years and no one has hurt me and I eat very good and I can go places without my sister and on my own. I thank my grandparents for taking care of me and letting me stay with them.

Thank you

Shyan

Age 9, 2007



My father is in prison. When I was two months old, he went to jail. Then, my grandparents walked into my life and took me in. Ever since then, my life has been spectacular. I live in the best home that any child could ever ask for. I have many friends and do many fun and exciting things with my grandparents. I am disciplined fairly and love my lifestyle. If it weren't for my grandparents, I would be a very unhappy child. I probably wouldn't even be living with my mom, because at the time, my mom couldn't even afford to support her own life. This is how my grandparents changed my life from living in a drawer, (literally) to becoming a grateful, happy child.

Taylor
Age 11, 2007



My Grandpa works all day,
He provides food and shelter for me with
his pay.

My grandma cooks food for me to eat,
Sometimes she even fixes my favorite
treat!

Although they may be getting old,
Their love for me is more precious than
gold!

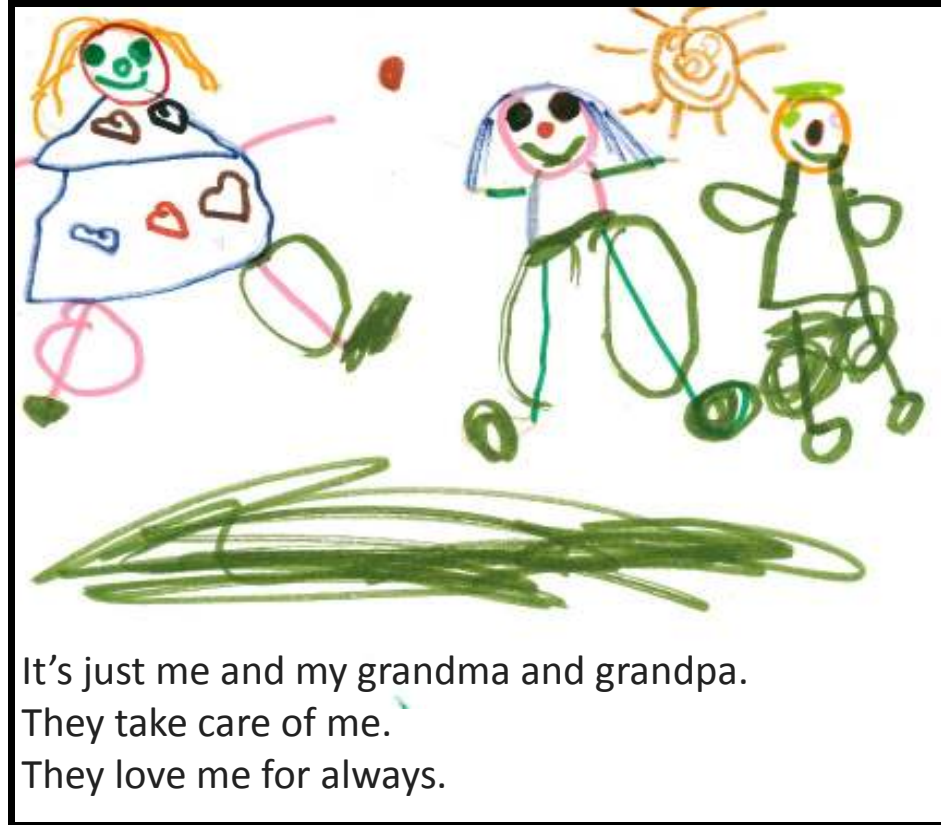
Misty
Age 12, 2008



Carrie~~The best

My cousin Carrie is a very nice person. She took my sister and me into her house when we had nowhere to go. When I lived with my mom, I got hungry a lot because my mom slept so much. But I found safety and care when Carrie took me in. Now I am fed better. Carrie even got a new house just so my sister and I could have our own rooms! Carrie makes sure we are fed before she gets food and she goes to college. I love to read and Carrie gives me lots of books. She is nice, caring, smart, responsible and giving. Those are the qualities that make me appreciate Carrie and all she does for me.

Ariel
Age 9, 2008



Tara
Age 5, 2009



Living with my two aunts has meant a lot to me. I have lived with my two aunts since 2003. In that time a lot has happened.

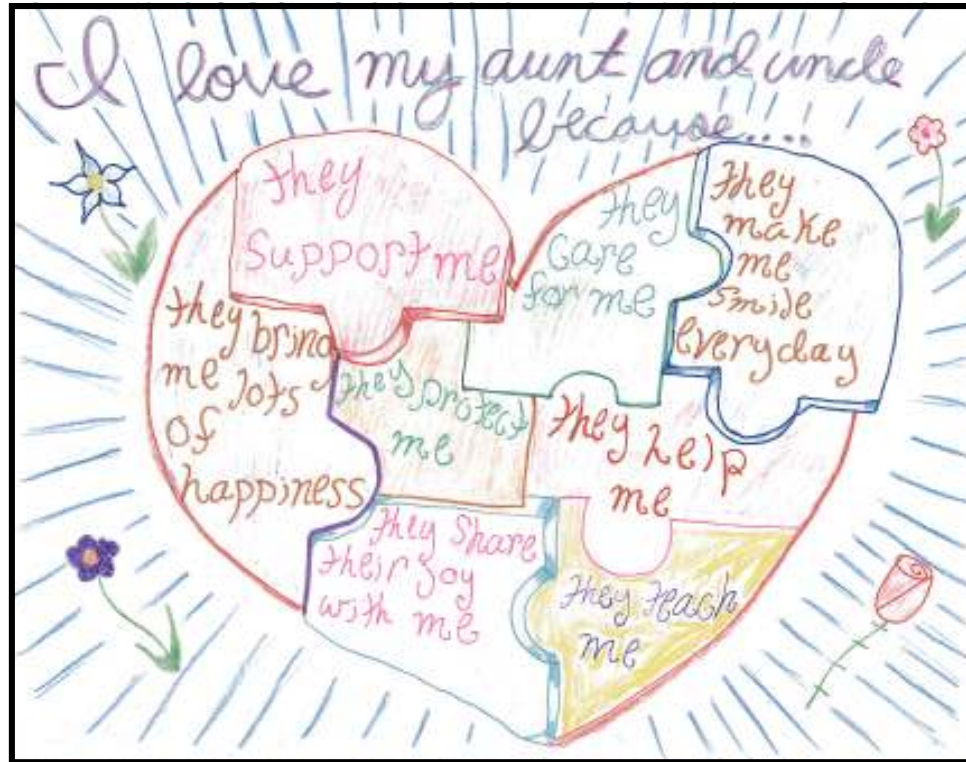
Before 2003 I was living in a home with my biological mother and father who was in and out of jail. In May of 2003 I decided enough was enough and that I was going to move in with my aunt Carrie. My mother and father said "If you really want to, we want you to do what you think is best." So I did!

I moved in with Aunt Carrie and I became better in school and I gained a better outlook on life. She threw me a lifeline. Prior to 2006 Aunt Joy moved in with us, and they decided that they are going to adopt me and my brother Joey. It took D.S.H.S. several months to approve this.

August 16, 2006 I was 12 years old, and we stepped into the courthouse in Yakima. We were taken to a courtroom and we said "I do" several times and the judge pronounced our new last names.

Thank you Aunt Carrie and Aunt Joy for helping me and my brother set our feet on the ground.

Anthony
Age 14, 2009



Lauren
Age 10, 2010



My aunty is always there for me
She loves me & when my mom passed away
She was there and took me in her care.
She loved me and helped me with all the
things I needed,
She's not just an aunty that takes me to the
mall
She's more.
She makes me happy when I'm sad &
Makes me glad when I'm mad.
She makes me happy inside and out.
She tells me it's OK
When to me it's not.
If she were your aunty
You would say I'm smart.
Anyone would want an aunty like this one.

Nubia
Age 11, 2010



My name is Leroy and I have lived with my grandma Cecile for seven years. I have learned that we will not always agree but we will always love each other. I know that she will always love me no matter what I do. I love her too. After all, she took me in when nobody else would. Plus, it is just great living here. She may not get me everything I want but she still gives me some things including what matters most, love and care. My life has been a lot better since I came here. It used to be that I would get kicked out of school every year, but since I came to live with my grandma I gradually made it up to attending school year round. We love each other and I live living here with her.

Leroy
Age 11, 2011



Best friends forever.
Grandma and me picking flowers and climbing trees.
A shoulder to cry on.
Secrets to share.
Warm hearts and hands that really care.
I love you Grandma

Kylie
Age 9, 2011



Jennifer
Age 12, 2012



I am thankful that I get to live with
My unty and my grandma because they
are sooo

- silly
- fun
- helpful
- respectful
- Proud
- surprised by what
I can do
- caring
- smart
- loving

If I didn't
have my unty
and grandma, I would
be scared I love you unty and grandma!!!

My Picture of
me, my unty, and
grandma

Olivia
Age 9, 2012