

An Incredible Journey

By Rick, Sherry, Tyler, and Ana



Adoption is an incredible journey. One filled with many ups and downs but a ride well worth taking. We came to Adoptions Together looking to adopt an older child, though younger than our birth son. We were connected with the Adoptions Works program. From the start, the program educates you, first with the informational meeting and then through the Adoption Works training class. Education is an *essential* component of adopting an older child.

Don't think you can adopt an older child without education, education, and education! Whether you are a first time parent or a long time parent (like us), adopting an older child brings about issues and challenges of a whole new variety. Most of us have probably never even come close to experiencing the traumas that these children have experienced. Which brings me to the next *essential* component of adoption- commitment and persistence. Healing is a process, it takes much time and persistence. Don't think that you can tell these children just one time that you love them and will be there for them forever, and that will be the end of it! You will need commitment and persistence, persistence, and persistence. Did you think we forgot about love? Absolutely not! All of this is done out of the greatest love. Maybe you are wondering, "Can I love a child that is not my/our own? My answer to this question is this: When my son was placed in my arms at birth, I did not think "will I love this child" or even "will I like this child." I just did! Likewise, I love my daughter. We can say that as time passes and we grow and bond together, that love deepens. Now, the story does not stop here. In addition to information and the training class, Adoptions Together in conjunction with the Center for Adoptive Families offers additional support. It takes a community to raise a child and we found that community within the Adoption Works program. Because support is the last *essential* component of adopting an older child. From the beginning, our greatest concern was at what level of emotional trauma would we actually be able to care for a child. Our caution was probably fueled by the fact that we knew that if we committed to a child, then we were committed for life. However, with the support and education we have received, we are parents of an adopted child and we are doing so without hesitation. We have never regretted our decision to adopt and feel very blessed to have 2 beautiful children. If you are considering adoption, you have come to a great place. So, tighten your seatbelts, hold on tight, and enjoy the ride!