

Children's Rights

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<https://www.childrensrights.org/?p=13015>

Campaign and Advocacy

By Danielle Smith

Until the coronavirus arrived, the gym was one place where I lived out loud. I have a passion for fitness; it keeps me sane. Now the virus has left me at home more these days which is not the normal for me. I do have an overwhelming 18 credits I'm working toward this semester as a senior at Prairie View A&M University.

But believe me when I tell you, I will be back in the gym real soon. I have my sights set on returning to my job in management at the Disney Store. I loved the part-time position I had until the virus interfered. I am learning so much from being slow to speak and quick to listen and how to be a better leader. Working at the most magical place in the world inspires me to be the best version of myself. My ideas are heard, and I am valued and respected. Growing up, I didn't always get that.

My biological mother put doing drugs ahead of being a mother. I was much younger than my two older siblings. They were adopted together, but not me. It hurt a bit, but God had other plans for me. No hard feelings to anyone because there was a ram in the bush.

I was in a few foster homes, and then in 2004 when I was about five, I was adopted. Before I was adopted my last foster mother made me a book with pictures and words about me so I can have some type of photographs of me when I was younger.

I yearned to see my brother and sister. And I was a curious kid I still am. A phone number fell out of that book, and I dialed. Scared, I hung up. But my adoptive mother figured it out and told me the number I called was the house where my siblings lived. It wasn't long before we all got together. I looked at my brother and sister and I could see myself in their smile. It filled in a hole in my past.

My search for my biological family has been a big part of my life it was my way of finding myself. This is nothing against my parents. I eventually did find my biological mom and dad. I started a relationship with both, but it died off. I think it because it was only meant to fill in the void that I had for so long. God blessed me with the best parents I could ever ask for. Anyone can just give birth to a child, but it takes special people to be parents.

But there was one relationship I did need. And through all my searching and curiosity I found her my very own granny. She is my bio father's mother, and she has changed my life. I can call her right now or whenever I want. She spoils me. She is my blood, and all her prayers have protected me throughout the years. I love her unconditionally, and God placed her in my life at the best time.

I have come a long way. Just pushing myself to study, to work out, to find a job that is meaningful all this has taught me more about myself. I have a low tolerance for people who bully and do not respect what other people have to say. Because everyone deserves a chance to be heard. This is something that is very important to me!

My all-time favorite scripture is Hebrew 12 1: Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. God has a bright future for me. I made it to senior year; I graduate in December. I know what I have accomplished. COVID-19 has thrown in a wrinkle, but it will all work out. I'm running my race to win.

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