

Ladies and gentlemen,

Today, I stand before you not just as someone who has walked the path of fostering and adoption, but as a testament to the boundless love and transformative power this journey can hold. When I first considered opening my home to a foster child, my heart was filled with uncertainty and questions. Could I provide the love and stability a child needed? Would I truly make a positive impact?

The journey began with fostering, an act of creating a safe haven and a nurturing environment for a child in need. Each day was a reminder that love is about showing up, consistently and unconditionally. With every shared meal, bedtime story, and moment of guidance, we built a bridge of trust, brick by brick.

Fostering soon turned into something even more profound: adoption. It was the moment when temporary care became forever family. The day I legally became a parent to my incredible child was one of the most humbling and joyful moments of my life. It was the culmination of an incredible journey filled with challenges, growth, and profound joy.

Through fostering to adopt, I learned that family is not just about shared DNA but about the bonds we form and the love we nurture. Every child deserves a place to call home and the security of knowing they are cherished beyond measure.

I urge each of you to consider this incredible path. Open your hearts and homes, and you, too, might discover not only the power you have to change a child's life but how much they will transform yours in return.

Thank you.