

When I was little, my homelife was dangerous. My mom was addicted to drugs, my parents would get in bad fights, and our apartment was a very unsafe place for me to live. My dad traveled all the time for work, so he was never home. A neighbor found out about all of this and reported it to the authorities. I'll never forget the day I was removed from my home and the police took my mom to jail for child endangerment.



MY NAME IS SAM, AND THIS IS **MY STORY...**



CASA OF THE SOUTH PLAINS, INC.

THE START OF

MY JOURNEY

I was born with a rare genetic neurological disorder. Because of this, I cannot talk or walk on my own. While I lived with my parents, I was never able to get the medical help I needed. This meant I wasn't able to grow mentally or physically the way I should have. I really needed someone to get me help, but there was no family who could care for me. I was placed in a foster home that was equipped for my medical needs. In addition to my genetic disorder, I had many other medical challenges. For example, I couldn't eat solid foods, so I was fed through a feeding tube. I also had to have a tracheotomy and was put on a ventilator to help me breathe. I received full-time nursing services, but I still wasn't growing and thriving.



Jade Dominguez,
CASA VOLUNTEER

MEETING MY CASA

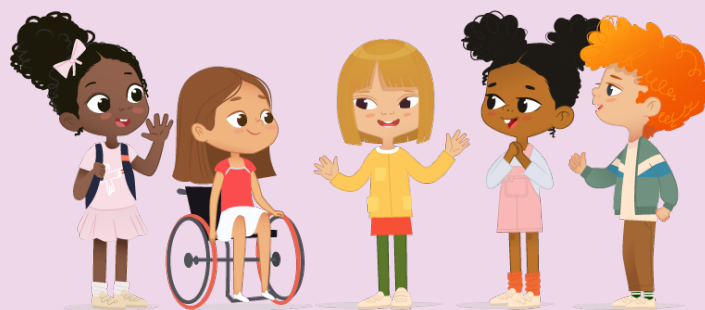
I lived in this sterile and lonely environment for several years. But this all changed the day I got my very own CASA Volunteer, Jade. She told me that a CASA is a volunteer who is appointed by a judge to be my Guardian ad Litem. Jade was going to be a voice for my best interest, and she would be with me until my case was resolved and I had a safe and permanent place to live. It gave me hope knowing I finally had someone who would look out for ME!

Jade explained that she's been with CASA for 8 years and has helped other children in foster care, too. She was here for ME and ready to advocate for what I needed!

OVERCOMING **MEDICAL**

CHALLENGES

As Jade got to know me, she recognized that my poor quality of life was affecting me physically and emotionally. She immediately set out to get me the help I needed. Jade worked to get my full medical history. I was seeing a lot of different doctors and they each had me taking different medicines. This caused problems for me, so Jade was able to advocate for me to get new genetic testing done. This would ensure I was able to get the proper medical treatment!



UNWAVERING ADVOCACY

While in the foster home, I had limited interaction with other people, and I was very lonely. My medical condition and the treatment I was getting kept me from being able to go to school. But Jade recognized how important school would be for my development. So Jade met with all the people involved in my case, including my foster home, my doctors, my case worker, and the school. Because of Jade's relationship with me and how well she knew what my needs were, she was able to advocate for me to go to school and be around other kids my age!

FINDING PERMANENCY

The foster home I was living in was not able to adopt me, but Jade was able to help! She worked with my caseworker and foster agency to help find a family who has a biological daughter with the same medical disorder that I have. Jade worked with the family to help them get the additional medical training needed to be able to take care of me. Within just a few months I was adopted! I'm no longer lonely and I'm improving more and more every day.

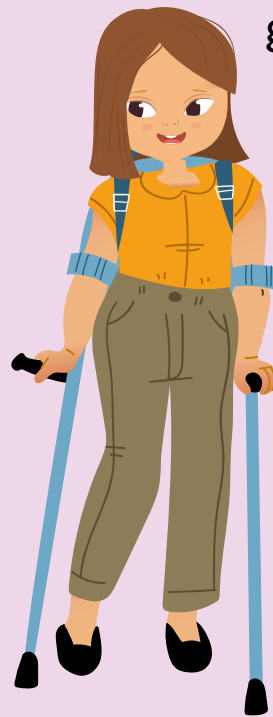
THIS IS A SINGLE STORY OF MANY

Unfortunately, Sam experienced many scary times before someone stepped up to help her. Sadly, almost 1,000 children in our community last year experienced abuse, neglect, and maltreatment in their own homes. Fortunately, there is hope. For this community problem, there is a community solution. It's CASA.



A NEW BEGINNING

Since I was adopted my life has changed so much! I no longer need to take all those medications, and I'm receiving more specialized medical care. I've been weaned off the feeding tube and I am eating solid foods. I absolutely love



going to school and being with my friends. I can now use special technology that helps me communicate with my family. I am walking now with my own specialized walker, and I even love to dance!

"If it weren't for CASA being a part of Sam's team, she could have stayed in her medical foster home until she was 18. What would have happened to her then? Now, she has a family who loves her, and Sam is growing and thriving. The quality of her life was changed forever!"

-Jade Dominguez

HOW YOU CAN HELP

What can you do to be part of this community solution? Give today to ensure kids like Sam have someone like Jade speaking up for their best interest.

Give a child the gift of
a CASA Volunteer.

DONATE TODAY.



TO PAY BY CHECK: Please fill out the enclosed envelope and make your check payable to: CASA of the South Plains, Inc.



TO PAY BY CREDIT/DEBIT CARD: Payment can be made online at bit.ly/CASA2023-AnnualAppeal or scan the QR code.



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF THE SOUTH PLAINS, INC.