



My little sister Ava and I were together in our room the day the police came to our house. A few days earlier I told my teacher that sometimes I was locked in the basement and not allowed to eat, and she reported it to the authorities. When they came to our house and saw my sister had really bad burns all over and how dirty our house was, they knew it wasn't safe for us to stay with our parents.

MY NAME IS AARON, AND THIS IS
OUR STORY...



THE START OF **OUR JOURNEY**

I was eight when my sister and I were taken from our home. I remember being hungry all the time and locked in the basement while the grown-ups yelled. Ava was only four, and she had burns all over her body. She cried a lot, and I didn't know how to help her. The man living with us wasn't our dad. Sometimes, when everyone was asleep, he would touch me in places I didn't want him to. When I told my teacher what was happening, everything changed.



MEETING **MY CASA**

A few days after we moved into the foster home, we got to meet James. He told us he was our CASA Volunteer, and that meant he was appointed by a judge to ensure our voice was being heard in court. He said he would be advocating for our best interest, and that he wasn't helping any other kids, just us. That made us feel special.

FINDING TRUST

Ava had to go to the hospital a lot. Her burns needed surgeries and follow-up treatments, but she missed so many appointments before the authorities got involved. James checked in regularly to make sure our foster parents were able to take her to all her doctor's visits. He talked to Ava's doctors and helped explain things to her in ways she could understand.

Ava didn't talk much at first, but she liked when James came to visit. He brought books and sat with her during some of her treatments. He made her feel like she mattered. I told him what I saw the night Ava was burned. And I shared about the basement and how I wasn't allowed to eat. And I even told him about the painful and scary things I went through. He listened. He didn't say I was lying like the other grown-ups used to. He told the judge what I said, and people started helping us.



UNWAVERING ADVOCACY

James worked with all our doctors, therapists, teachers, and our attorney and caseworker. He made sure Ava got the medical care she needed and I got help for the nightmares and sadness I felt. He told the judge about everything, how we were doing, what we needed, and what made us feel safe. He even helped our foster parents connect to therapists who could help us heal. James never missed a visit. He showed up, every time, just like he said he would.

NORMALCY RESTORED

Our mom didn't want to do the things the judge asked. She yelled at people in the courtroom and said I was making things up. It was clear that it was not safe for us to go home to her. But James believed Ava and I deserved to be with family who could care for us. And thankfully he was able to find our aunt and uncle who didn't know we had been put into foster care.

When James called them, they told him they wanted us to be with them so they could give us the care we needed. Within just a few months we were able to move in with them. They made sure Ava got to her medical appointments and helped us feel safe again. Because of James, we're now home with family who not only meet all our needs but love us in all the ways that matter most.

THIS IS A **SINGLE STORY OF MANY**

Aaron and Ava endured terrifying circumstances before someone stepped in to help. Last year, nearly 750 children in our community entered foster care due to abuse or neglect. But there is hope — and a community solution: CASA. With CASA's support, James found an aunt and uncle who could provide Aaron and Ava the safe, loving home they deserved.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

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

"I knew Aaron and Ava needed more than just a safe place, they needed family. CASA gave me the tools to search deeper and advocate harder. Finding their aunt and uncle changed everything. Watching the kids begin to heal from the trauma they endured, in a home filled with love, reminded me why this work matters. CASA supports community members like me and you to stand up for what's truly best for each child."

- James, CASA Volunteer

Give a child the gift of
a CASA Volunteer.

**DONATE
TODAY.**

