



I was really scared the day my mom and dad got into a bad fight with our neighbor and the police were called. My brother, sister, and I were outside playing and we didn't understand what was happening. When the authorities came they saw how unsafe it was, so they took our parents away and removed us from our home.

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



THE START OF

MY JOURNEY

When we were younger, we saw our parents fight a lot. Our home was not safe for us. I was really scared when my mom and dad were taken to jail and we were taken to stay in a group home with people we didn't know. At first we weren't sure why we couldn't go back home, but now I know it was because our parents needed to get help so we could be safe.



MEETING

MY CASA

A few days after our mom and dad were taken away, we met Lou Anne. She came to visit us at the group home where we were staying. She told us she was a CASA Volunteer, and that meant she was appointed by a judge to ensure our voice was being heard in court. She said we were the only family she was helping, and she would be advocating for our best interest. We weren't exactly sure what that meant, but it gave us hope knowing we had someone who was looking out for us. Plus, we always had fun with Lou Anne when she came to visit us!

OVERCOMING

MEDICAL CHALLENGES

At first, we weren't comfortable opening up to Lou Anne. But she came to see us regularly, and in just a short time we learned that we could trust her. We started telling her about school, what we were struggling with, and how much we missed our mom and dad. The more Lou Anne got to know us the more she was able to help us.

My brother shared that he couldn't sleep at night, and he was having suicidal thoughts. I admitted to her that I was always feeling sad and had started hurting myself. Lou Anne helped us understand we didn't have to stay feeling this way and there was help available for us. She worked with our teachers and counselors, our doctors, attorneys, and the judge so they would all know what we were going through and that we needed help. Lou Anne made sure we got the therapy we needed to learn healthier ways to cope with our trauma.


UNWAVERING

ADVOCACY

Lou Anne wasn't just there for me and my siblings, she helped our mom, too! When our parents were released from jail our mom was able to go back home. We were very sad we couldn't be with her. Lou Anne encouraged our mom to get the help she needed to be able to safely take care of us so we could be together again. She made sure Mom was informed and had access to important resources. Lou Anne regularly encouraged her to complete the parenting classes and get therapy like we were. Mom really appreciated having someone who believed in her!

RETURNING

HOME

Within a few months Lou Anne and our caseworker came to visit with some great news! They explained to me and my brother and sister that our mom had worked very hard to get help and do all the things required so we could live with her again. They explained that because Mom had worked so hard, the judge was going to let us live with her, and that our caseworker and Lou Anne were going to continue their visits. This would help ensure we were safe and had everything we needed. We finally got to go back home with our Mom! 



NORMALCY RESTORED

Not long after we were home, our dad started coming to see us again. He and Mom agreed to work together and get the help they needed to ensure they could provide a safe home for all of us. Because Lou Anne was visiting us regularly, she was able to make sure our home was safe and we were getting everything we needed.

Lou Anne continued to work with our caseworker and attorney, ensuring everyone had all the necessary information so the judge could make the best decision for us and our future. The day finally came when my brother and sister and I got to go to court and hear the judge say we could permanently be home with our mom and dad! Now we are a family again and we feel safe and secure in our home.

Lou Anne was really important to me and my family. She worked very hard to make sure we got the help we needed to heal and thrive. Every child in foster care should have a CASA volunteer like Lou Anne!

THIS IS A SINGLE STORY OF MANY

Unfortunately, Rose and her siblings experienced scary and uncertain times before someone stepped in to help. Sadly, almost 800 children in our community last year experienced foster care after suffering abuse, neglect, and maltreatment in their own homes. Fortunately, there is hope. For this community problem, there is a community solution. It's CASA.

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.

“CASA provided the advocacy that this family needed to survive the circumstances and come out stronger together. The children knew they had someone they could depend on in their corner who was watching over their best interests. Mom and Dad learned to trust that there were people who wanted to help and cared about their family’s survival.” - Lou Anne Stoddard

Give a child the gift of
a CASA Volunteer.

**DONATE
TODAY.**

