

# Jersie's Story

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## MEET JERSIE:

**A typical 12-year-old girl, Jersie loves Fortnite, anime and ramen noodles with soy sauce. However, her life up until now has been anything but typical. Jersie has spent the past six years in foster care and has been in more placements — at least 10 — than she can remember.**

All of this changed last year when Jersie went to live with Mya and Kevin, longtime therapeutic foster parents with Children's Aid and Family Services, who have helped nearly 30 children to heal from the wounds of trauma. Mya and Kevin are extraordinarily skilled at working with vulnerable children, teaching them to thrive through a combination of consistency, structure, clear expectations and a healthy dose of playfulness. Their growing family includes Meadow, their child by birth, and their two adopted children whom they fostered.

Jersie is honest and insightful about herself. "I used to have a bad attitude," she says. "Mom has helped me to improve it. She is straightforward about the rules and expectations. She will give me a warning and expect me to know I'm making a mistake and fix it. A lot of my bad habits have gone away."

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Along with improvements in her behavior, Jersie is excelling academically. She earned B pluses across the board last semester as a result of her hard work and nightly homework help from Mya and Kevin. And since she's no longer moving from place to place, she has had time to make new friends in her school.

She has also become close with Meadow, Mya and Kevin's 8-year-old daughter. "Meadow is funny and playful and nice to be around," says Jersie. The two girls have different personalities: Jersie tends to be reserved and Meadow is outgoing. "She will talk to anyone," laughs Jersie. "When we went to a wedding recently, we stayed in a hotel and I needed the WiFi password. I get uncomfortable talking to new people so I brought Meadow with me, and she had no problem asking."



# CHILDREN'S AID AND FAMILY SERVICES

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Adds Meadow, "I wished I had a sister and Jersie came into the family! Sometimes we don't get along but we work it out. She's a good big sister."

On November 16, National Adoption Day, Mya and Kevin adopted Jersie. "I'm excited about being adopted," she says. Jersie changed her middle name to Storm on her new official birth certificate. "It's a pretty name and it also represents everything she went through to get to this point," says Mya. "As my husband says, Jersie is a good kid and deserves the opportunity to be a part of a family and have a good future. She has found a place where she is accepted as she is and encouraged to grow and become a better person."

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**60% of children in foster care wait two to five years to be adopted, which feels like a lifetime to a child.**

**It is only with your help that we can partner with and provide support and training to foster parents such as Mya and Kevin, who open their home and hearts to children with backgrounds of abuse and trauma.**

*Together, we are changing lives.*

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CHILDREN'S AID  
AND FAMILY SERVICES

*Thank  
You!*