



## ***“...We Could Not Have Asked for a Better Story.”***



*The Bothe Family: David, Jason, Mario, Lawrence and Ayzule*

*About two years ago, Jason and David Bothe made the decision to adopt through DFS. They are now the proud parents of three young boys.*

*“It’s been an amazing two years. We could not have asked for a better story,” said David Bothe. “The County and everyone involved were amazing.”*

*The Bothes are busy raising their three sons whom they adopted, as well as providing foster care to other children. Jason and David shared their adoption story with us and explain why they want to adopt more kids.*

### **What brought you to DFS and/or the foster care licensing process?**

Jason and I are from Minnesota and moved to the Vegas area so we could adopt children. At that time it was not possible for us to adopt in Minnesota. We met a guy named Rich Mills at church, who was a recruiter for adoption. We learned about the program from him and after attending the information meeting we knew this was the right choice for us.

### **What’s your adoption story?**

We had amazing instructors in our PS-MAPP (Partnering for Safety and Permanence – Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting) classes. Towards the end of the process (April 2012) Brenda Herbstman asked us if we wanted to adopt right away as she knew three boys looking for permanency. We looked at a flyer of the three and fell in love. We met with the recruiter (who was amazing) and she thought we were a great match. In June 2012 we received a call from the recruiter letting us know we were selected through the HART (Homestretch Adoption Review Team) Program process to adopt the boys. We were blown away with joy!

A few weeks later we met the boys and began spending tons of time with them. In July they moved in and changed our lives forever. In February 2013, we adopted the boys and, man, we can’t believe it has already been two years since we met them. It’s been an amazing two years. We could not have asked for a better story. The County and everyone involved were amazing. Every day I thank the Lord for giving our family a fairy tale ending!



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## **Why have you continued to foster after finalizing your adoption?**

Originally we kept our license because our three boys had a new sibling on the way and we wanted them together. As things worked out we had the sibling for only two weeks before he went home with his dad. Jason and I decided we wanted to adopt some girls as well. So we moved and expanded our license so we could open our home to more foster kids.

## **Any suggestions for helping adoptive children cope with foster children?**

We have found that talking with our boys about our plans was the best plan. We have explained to the boys that we (as a family) want to help others whether it's temporary fostering or permanency. The boys treat our foster children as their own brothers and sisters.

As I stated earlier we find it best to be open and honest with our boys about why foster kids may come and go and why they have visits, etc.

## **What is your relationship with the birth family of your adoptive children?**

Although we have a closed adoption we established a Facebook page for our boys (particularly our 10-year old) where they and mom can write messages and post pics.

We believe it important for our oldest son to be able to ask his mom questions and to foster that relationship where he finds it comfortable. We plan to maintain this page indefinitely.

The hardest part of keeping this open communication line is when Mom doesn't respond in a timely manner. But, as we said, we think it's great our oldest son can ask questions and knows she's there.

## **What support do you have, foster parents?**

We met great friends, Shannon and Dotty Funston, who have been foster parents for many years. They have supported us in more ways than we can ever say thanks for.

Also, we are part of the Clark County Foster and Adoptive Parent Association (CCFAPA) and participate in many events throughout the year. We have also made many friends at DFS, in various departments, who always make themselves available to answer our questions.

It's an amazing team here in Clark County. We of course have the support of both our families from Minnesota.

## **Any funny stories about being a first time parent?**

There are so many stories. I fondly remember Jason teaching Ayzule, our 1½-year old, to use the big potty by rewarding him with drumstick ice-cream cones.

So we have a picture of him on the potty with the cone in his hand!

Our first Father's Day was an experience beyond words. I think we both spent a great deal of time with tears of joy in our eyes. Our families really made a big deal of it and it was awesome.

## **Would you encourage others to foster?**

Yes! We highly recommend fostering and adopting. I have a friend at work who was interested but unsure of fostering and adopting. I shared our story with her, but soon I moved to a different work location. She called me last week and told me her and her partner just completed their PS-MAPP classes. I am so happy for her.

I believe foster parents are the best recruiting assets for DFS. We really didn't find any part of the process difficult. We have had an amazing journey with fostering and adopting.

We are currently fostering four children, soon to be five, besides our three boys. Our family just loves the whole experience.

We just want to take a moment and thank you for allowing two gay men to take this journey, and secondly, to be so supportive of us and our family.