

## GLENN AND CHARLOTTE



All Children Deserve a  
Permanent Family

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Glenn and Charlotte began caring for their grandson, Aaron, as formal foster parents when he was seven years old. His siblings, Miranda and Vernon, soon joined him in foster care. Their mother was using methamphetamines at the time and was later diagnosed as bipolar. Aaron's father was never involved in his life.

After two years in his grandparents' care, it became evident that Aaron's mother would never be able to care for him. Aaron has many special needs. He has Albright's Syndrome, a disease which affects his bone development; Asberger's Disorder, a form of autism; and has been diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. She was involved in his life but could not provide the attention he needed. His grandparents adopted him on February 11, 2000.

Things were different with the younger children. Their mother made a significant effort to stay connected to them. She began taking medication to stabilize her condition and visited them with their father every two weeks. The children's love for their parents was undeniable. They looked forward to their parents' visits and part of them yearned to return to live with their mom and dad, but the challenges of recovery and their mother's mental health condition were clearly preventing their return.

Charlotte and Glenn knew that Miranda and Vernon needed the stability of knowing they had a permanent, safe home with their grandparents, without damaging the valuable connection the children had with their parents. Adopting them would have required terminating the parents' rights, closing the door on the children's relationship with their mom and dad. If they simply sought custody of the children, they would lose the foster care stipend they needed to be able to provide for the children. Glenn and Charlotte's social worker told them about subsidized guardianship, an option they chose which allowed permanent guardianship of the children to be given to them while still providing them the financial resources they received as foster parents. "Without the subsidy, we just wouldn't have been able to take the children," explains Glenn. Now with Glenn and Charlotte as their permanent guardians, Miranda and Vernon continue to benefit from the joy of regular visits with their mom and dad, but know they have a safe, permanent home with their grandparents and brother.