

## HONORING, UNITING, AND CELEBRATING FAMILIES

### SUPPORTING A REUNIFIED FAMILY

#### A Case Manager's Story

Sandy isn't just a foster parent, she is an advocate for children and youth who are served through the child welfare system. But perhaps even more significant, she is an advocate for the children's biological parents.

There are a number of excellent examples of Sandy's dedication to reunification, but perhaps none as strong as her work with two children currently placed in her home. Each day, Sandy opens up her home from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. to the children's mother, encouraging her to come and parent them throughout the day's activities. Her goal is to help them form a normal parent-child bond, in spite of living apart. Sandy's dedication has gained the trust of local Health and Human Services officials, who allow her to supervise and monitor the visits between mom and the children.



After the recent birth of her third child, the children's mother experienced some significant struggles, and, once again, Sandy stepped up to assist. She worked to help the mom find resources, and even offered her a bed and a place to rest when the children were resting while mom was in her home on visits. Sandy attends every team meeting, every court hearing, and only wants what is in the best interest of the kids, which, at this time, is for the two kids to have their mom present as much as possible. Sandy has struggles that are similar to many foster parents, she wants what is best for each child who comes into her home. And even in those instances when she may wish the children could stay with her, in her home, she always goes out of her way to support a reunified family.

Learn more about [CEDAR Homes for Children](#), an organization with a mission to help children who have been abused, neglected, and homeless achieve safety, stability, and enduring family relationships in Nebraska.



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
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