

Relative and Kin Connections: Keeping Families Strong

A Forever Home for 2 Sisters, OH

Matt, my husband, a pastor at a local church had been teaching a class related to addiction and recovery. Sherry, one of the members of the class was worried about her pregnancy due to her substance use. The following week, she gave birth to a baby girl, Liana. We went up to the hospital to meet Sherry and baby. We told Sherry that if she needed help, we would do it. She chose us to take Liana. During that time, my husband and I were trying to help her with getting into treatment as we wanted her to be with her baby. Sherry wasn't open to treatment at the time, however, and we continued to have an open relationship with her. She could meet us through the church and see the baby. The invitation was open to see the mother and father's family.



Sherry didn't make progress after 9 months and we then received legal custody. She didn't want any part of it during this time. Victoria was born 20 months later. We got a phone call from one of mother's relatives. We had an open relationship with the family, and they informed us that mother had another baby and left her at the hospital. We immediately started calling Children Services as we wanted to keep the siblings together. We received legal custody at 3 months. Currently, the girls are 6 and 5 years old. They were adopted on September 21, 2021. The girls are amazing. They are healthy, happy, and super smart. They are busy handfuls.

It truly has been the best experience of our life. It was the right thing to do to say "yes." The girls have brought so much joy and happiness to our lives. I would highly recommend for others to do the same thing and say yes to kinship care—it's an incredible opportunity for both parents and the child. There was a need, and we were able to fill it for us and the girls.

Angie is a foster parent with Lorain County Children Services. To learn more about how to become a foster parent with LCCS, visit its [website](#).



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