

A Story of Inspiration

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A Young Man's Journey in Foster Care Produces Great Success

Growing up in inner city Cleveland, surrounded by drugs, hunger, and poverty, Chris'* early years were very unstable. His family was unable to provide him with the physical and emotional support that he needed, so at the age of seven, Chris was removed from his family home. For the next few years he was moved in and out of foster homes, never getting the security he desired. "It was a very hard time in my life," says Chris. "I was afraid and felt as if my whole world was crashing down."

Then at the age of 7, Chris was moved into the foster home of a Ron and Dee Kent, licensed OhioGuidestone foster parents. The Kent's instilled healthy family values and created a strong foundation of honesty, respect and faith in Chris. This stability was exactly what he needed to begin to work through his past. He gained courage and self-confidence and began to have hope for his future. During his time with the Kents, Chris spent planned respite care time (short-term child care for foster parents) with Sam and Christina Gaglione, licensed OhioGuidestone foster parents. Chris formed a special bond with the Gaglione family and in 2011 moved into their foster home.



The Gaglione's nurtured the values the Kent's had instilled within Chris and allowed him to grow into the strong, respectable young adult that he is today. They helped to teach and guide him into becoming an independent, resilient young man. During this time, Chris also participated in counseling sessions, through OhioGuidestone's counseling program, so that he could work through the hurt and anger from his past. The Gaglione's helped him achieve the goals he set for himself during these sessions, and he has been able to successfully move past these feelings so that they don't hold him back from achieving his future goals. "Growing up around drugs and poverty has helped me to realize that this isn't what I want for my future," says Chris. "OhioGuidestone put me in a stable environment and a healthy home, and I have to thank them for all of their help and support."

Today, Chris is proud to be the first member in his biological family to have completed his senior year of high school. He is actively involved in football, and this fall he plans to pursue a college degree in social work and psychology. "Through my foster families' encouragement, I have learned what my strengths are, and I am very excited about my future," says Chris. "Both the Kent's and the Gaglione's have helped me to understand what family really means, and I know they will be lifelong supports for me."

*Name has been changed to protect the individual's identity



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