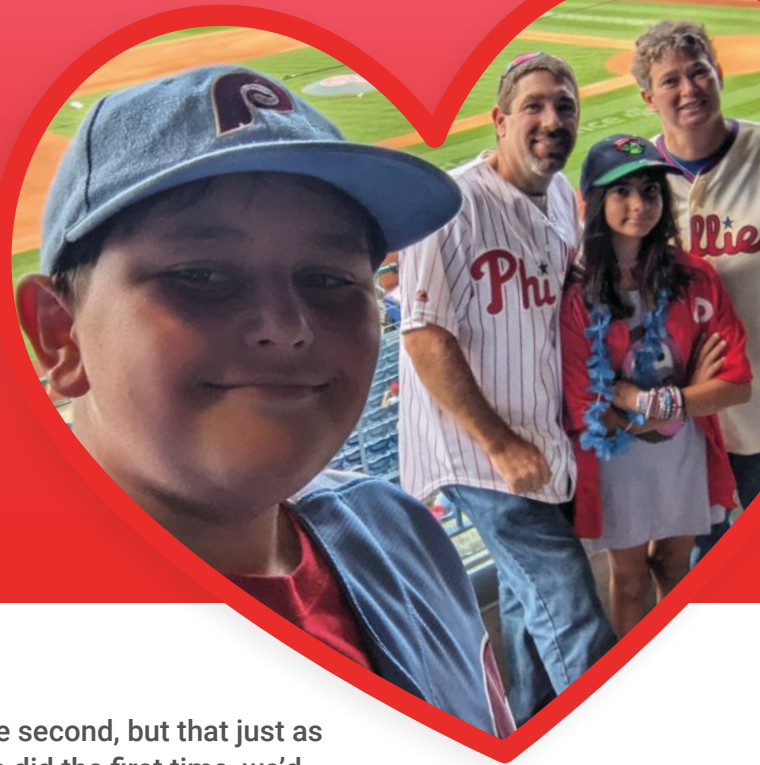




A Love Story Made Possible Through Adoption



Dear Friends ,

When Charlie and Lisa describe the moment they first met their children, their faces light up.

“We were waiting anxiously in a private room at CHSofNJ,” Charlie recalls. “When they placed each baby in our arms, everything else faded away. The happiness is indescribable.”

Lisa remembers the mix of emotions: “I was nervous, excited, and overflowing with love. But I also thought of the birth mothers – how one of the best days of our lives was likely one of the hardest of theirs.”

That first gaze, that first heartbeat against their own – it was the beginning of a bond that has only grown stronger with time.



The early days were filled with learning curves and laughter. “Our son slept well; our daughter, on the other hand, was not a great sleeper and not a fan of air conditioning,” Charlie laughs. “We spent a lot of nights sitting on the front porch with her and realizing that nothing we learned with the first would apply to

the second, but that just as we did the first time, we’d all find our way together. Every child is unique, but the love is the constant.”



Lisa adds, “I’ve always believed love makes a family. But our children showed me what that really looks like. From the moment they knew we were ‘home,’ the bond was undeniable.”

Now, with children ages 14 and 10, Charlie and Lisa marvel at how adoption has shaped not just their family, but generations of their family.

“Adoption has been a blessing in my life,” Charlie shares. “I was adopted through CHSofNJ, so was my sister, and now both of our children. Even our son’s biological father was adopted through CHSofNJ. That’s five lives – forever connected because of this organization.”

Lisa agrees: “Adoption gave me my husband and my family. Had he not been adopted, our paths would never have crossed. Without adoption, none of this would exist.”

Their children have taught them patience, resilience, and the true meaning of unconditional love. They celebrate their children's stories openly, honoring adoption days, and seizing opportunities to highlight ethnic or biologic ancestral connections. We think it's important that the kids understand the cultures from which they came, and we leave it to them to decide the level at which they continue to investigate and learn those types of things on their own.

When asked what advice they'd share with others considering adoption, Charlie doesn't hesitate;

"Don't let fear or waiting times stop you. Adoption is no less than having a child - it's so much more."

Lisa adds, "Go for it. Kids are the greatest blessing. CHSofNJ does amazing work bringing families together."



"Every child is unique, but the love is the constant."



You can help make more stories like this possible.

For more than 130 years, *The Children's Home Society of New Jersey (CHSofNJ)* has been creating families through adoption, changing countless lives for the better. But we can't do it without you.

Your gift today ensures that children find safe, loving homes and that families like Charlie and Lisa's can begin their journey together.



<http://bit.ly/4nKJpyX>



**With Heartfelt Gratitude,
Lisa & Charlie**