

Abused children can't wait

The boys were soon placed together in a foster home and assigned a Dallas CASA volunteer, Linda, to advocate for their best interests. Linda became very close to the young boys, helping them get to the doctor where they were diagnosed with lactose intolerance which had been causing their digestive troubles. She checked on them while they were put to sleep for their dental work. She visited them in their foster home, where they had two older foster brothers and a dog and had begun to blossom. She met with teachers and therapists, doctors and caseworkers.

In foster care, the boys settled in. The family gave the boys structure and consistency they had never known. The boys all made significant gains in speech and behavior while in therapy. There were hugs and love, a regular dinner hour and bedtime stories in a house with five growing boys. The foster family even had chickens the boys would feed.

But due to a legal complication, the boys were returned to their maternal grandmother under CPS supervision. Linda stayed close to the boys. She helped drive them from foster care to their grandmother's apartment with an enormous box of toys, clothes and bedding from the foster home. She brought cartons of special lactose-free milk and diapers for the boys. She helped the grandmother get bunk beds and a portable crib. She checked on the oldest child's school enrollment, discovering his grandmother had enrolled him in the wrong grade, and helped get that corrected. She counted the boys' pills and checked their lactose-free milk when she visited and knew their grandmother was not giving them their medication or the special milk. She checked again with doctors and therapists and knew their grandmother had stopped taking the boys to their therapies, and she witnessed behavioral regression and their violence with each other. She offered advice when the grandmother complained the boys cried all night, and she reminded the grandmother the boys could not be left home alone while she worked.

She also established a critical relationship with the apartment manager, who promised to call Linda if the boys needed something. Less than a month later, Linda got the call. Police had come out to the apartment after a domestic violence call and the boys were in emergency foster care. Once again, Linda was there to guide the boys back to the foster family.

Two days before Christmas, the boys were returned to the foster family they'd lived with for a year, along with a box of donated gifts from Dallas CASA supporters. The boys were thrilled to settle in again. And last year, after parental rights were relinquished, the boys were adopted by the foster family where they are growing up safe and loved.

