



\*Names have been changed to protect the identities of minors.

Juan\* was only a year and a half when I took his case. At the time, he was placed in kinship care with his paternal grandparents. However, the paternal grandparents' home had been deemed inappropriate due to environmental dangers. The paternal side of this family was undocumented, meanwhile the maternal side was of legal citizenship. The father was being held on alleged domestic violence charges, while the mother was unstable and struggling with drug and alcohol abuse, as well as bipolar disorder. Because the paternal grandparents' home was considered unsafe, Juan's paternal aunt was approved as an appropriate placement.

Juan's aunt was extremely reserved when we first met. I explained my position as a CASA and how I was there to support her and Juan through their transitions. It was such a blessing to see Juan prosper so quickly once the conversion took place. He proudly had his own room decorated in a Disney "Cars" theme, which he showed me every time we visited. After hurdling some delays, Juan's aunt ended up adopting this sweet little boy. Juan's aunt and I continue to have contact from time to time and she is now the mother of her own child born in late September 2010. Juan is now a big brother to a little brother!

I feel Juan is one of our CASA success stories. He was adopted at a young age and thankfully remained within his biological family.

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CASA of Adams & Broomfield Counties Volunteer