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A Foundation of Love: How One Family's Commitment Transformed a Young Boy's Life

From the moment Kashton was born two years ago, his path in life needed a new direction. Facing circumstances that left his biological family unable to care for him, his story could have been one of uncertainty. But Julie and George "Scott" Wesley of Greene County knew it could be so much more. With open hearts and unwavering determination, they welcomed Kashton into their lives, first as kinship/foster parents and, eventually, as his forever family. Their journey with him has become a testament to the power of love, hope, and second chances.

According to Julie, Kashton came to her and her and Scott in 2022, when he was just an infant.

"My cousin met a girl who already had three small children," Julie began. "It wasn't long after they got together that CYS became involved and they ended up removing the children and putting them into foster care. It was just a few short months later that she ended up getting pregnant with Kashton.

"The day Kashton was born marked a year that the other kids had been in foster care with no progress," she continued. "So after Kashton was released from the hospital, he also went into foster care."

Initially, his birth mother did not want the newborn to be placed with family. It wasn't until July of 2022, when he was five weeks old, that she agreed to a kinship placement with Julie and Scott.

"We learned pretty quickly that if it came down to Kashton needing to be adopted that we would have to become foster parents, so we worked quickly and became legal foster/adoptive parents," Julie recalled. "By October of 2022, we officially were licensed."

"We have had an amazing experience with the agency," she praised. "Our case worker, Jenni, has been a heaven-send for us. We are forever grateful for her hard work."

On Sept. 20, 2024, the Wesley's officially adopted Kashton.

With Kashton having been with the couple since infancy, they have had the joy of witnessing him grow into a lively, intelligent toddler, all while creating countless special memories together.

Julie reminisced about some of the most treasured moments they've shared, such as when he learned his ABCs at just one year old, took his first steps at 11 months, and enjoyed outings at fairs where he danced and fed the animals.

"The day we adopted him was by far one of our special memories we'll cherish forever," she said.

"Kashton loves to talk, he sings, he knows how to spell his name, he knows his address, he can tell you what town he lives in, what state he lives in, he can tell you what town his aunt lives in and where his grandma lives," Julie proudly stated.

"He loves all animals, dinosaurs, [YouTubers] Blippi, Cocomelon, and Ms. Rachel. He loves to clean and bake with me, and when dad's doing anything, he's right there eager to learn and help. He knows what more tools are called than I do.

"My goal from the time he came to us was for him to never feel like he was adopted, but to know the situation down the road," Julie noted. "He's such a blessing. Seeing the smile on his face every day is more than enough for me to know that no matter what, he deserves to have a good life, and a good life is just what he's going to get."

In closing, she shared the following words of wisdom for both current and aspiring foster parents.

"Just remember the reason you are who you are and why you do what you do. The kids deserve love whether they are with you for a day, week, month, or years. No matter what happens remain the bigger person, stay focused on the goal. We're the voices for the kids and they are always watching and listening.

"Don't be afraid to ask questions and use your voice. This is no easy task, but you've got this. Make every activity enjoyable, don't dwell on how little or long you have the children, just make every memory count. You're amazing."

The Wesley family has chosen to continue to open their home to additional children through traditional foster care with Adelphoi.

May is National Foster Care Month — a time to recognize the critical role foster families play in the lives of at-risk youth. According to childwelfare.gov, more than 365,000 children and youth are in foster care, each one deserving a safe, stable home. If you're interested in becoming a foster parent, contact Adelphoi at www.adelphoifoster.org or 1-800-KID-5928 to learn how you can make a difference in a child's life.

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