

NARRATIVE FOR DR. JAMES AND ANN YURCEK

We are experienced adoptive parents who have already raised 11 children including 5 siblings adopted trans racially from the foster care system. We have learned so much with our children, we know we can help children. We have enough time before retirement to raise another child or a set of children to adulthood. Our birth children are now grown and are supporting us with a commitment to helping any new siblings throughout their lives.

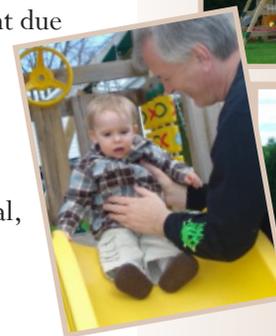
We have experienced parenting a child who was severely medically fragile, not expected to survive. Our daughter has thrived and is now 23. She has astounded the medical professionals with her progress. We are medical professionals and Dad is a physician. Mom is a strong special needs advocate, mentor parent, and writer in the special needs world. We are very well versed in the medical home, educational and mental health worlds, advocating for the very best care and coordination for not only our children, but other families and children as well.

We have experience working with medical technologies, including Gtubes, oxygen, and other equipment and in working with a medical home concept and multiple medical providers, therapies, and school professionals. Our home soon will be handicap accessible with the upcoming installation of a stair lift.

In 1997 reunited a set of 5 AA siblings who were in 3 separate foster homes ages 4 to 15. We did have an empty nest as these kids are now raised except for the youngest who is now 20. And then we added Lil' Guy. We learned to parent a set of kids with extraordinary challenges and successfully kept them united. We learned trauma, trans racial issues, mental health diagnoses and the prenatal impact of alcohol on child development.

Our biological children are now grown, college educated, and education is an important part of our family. Our biological children have been extremely accepting of their siblings challenges. We have a highly structured environment due to our children's challenges. We are family oriented, our animals were highly therapeutic for our kids, we have a lot of experience advocating in the school setting for children with disabilities.

We are strong advocates for children with special needs in the medical, educational, and mental health realms. We are well versed in working with children with prenatal drug and alcohol exposure, abuse, neglect and trauma





histories. We are well trained in working with children with mild-severe attachment issues, but at this time will only consider children with mild to moderate attachment disorders because of our girls. We have strong skills to parent children who are prenatally exposed to alcohol and other drugs.

Before the adoption of our children, I had an integrated day care, caring for children with such needs as g-tubes, spina bifida, hearing impaired, prematurity and learning challenges. I had to cath, use a feeding tube, transfer and help a little girl with spina bifida for over 3 years.

We are approved for children special needs and a younger sib set up to 4 in the group up to age 8. We are very versed in the care of medically fragile children, but because we live an hour from a Children's hospital will not be able to take a vent dependent child. I have friends who have children who live in the area who are wheelchair dependent offering both friendship and also support for resource sharing.

With being in the health care field, we have excellent insurance and we have strong skills in getting the needs of our children/adult children's needs covered.

We are a strong family, which spends our time with our children and are well-versed in meeting the needs of children who have been affected by trauma, abuse, neglect and with disabilities. We have strong supports and have learned much in our 13 years of being adoptive parents with our sib set.

Our family has fun, we use play to heal. Our kids have played football, basketball, ran track, participated in plays, dance, therapeutic horseback riding, special olympics, and other programs in the special needs world and many different activities including 4H and train animals. We live in a small rural county seat community where Dad is a physician, 18 miles from a smaller University City about an hour from Madison with its excellent Children's Hospital and 2 hours from the renowned Milwaukee Children's Hospital and 30 miles from a smaller city of 60,000. We have the best of both worlds, the peace and calm and smallness of a small town and close enough to have the supports and adventures of the city.

We have both dogs and cats who our children have nurtured and cared over the years. They are both family members and therapeutic supports for our kids over the years. We have a large swimming pool on her nearly 2 acres on the edge of the city, with 2 large play structures on a dead-end street overlooking the rolling hills of SW Wisconsin.

Dr. James, Ann, Becca and Detamarra Yurcek look forward to rearing our new Lil' Guy.

