

Bazan Family Story Video Script

Strong Families, Safe Children

This is the Bazan family's story of reunification.

Norton

Mom: "THE STATE'S NOT GOING TO SIT AROUND AND WAIT FOR YOU FIGURE OUT WHAT YOU ARE DOING. YOU GOT TO FIGURE IT OUT, AND THEY'RE WILLING TO HELP YOU, YOU JUST HAVE TO ACCEPT THE HELP."

NICKY BAZAN IS A SINGLE MOM WITH THREE CHILDREN. LIKE ANY SINGLE PARENT, EVERYDAY IS A STRUGGLE.

UNFORTUNATELY, SHE HAD HER HUSBAND AT THE TIME STRUGGLED MORE THAN MOST—SHE SAYS THEY FOUGHT, HAD ISSUES WITH SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO COPE WITH THEIR PROBLEMS.

THEIR CHILDREN WERE PLACED INTO FOSTER CARE.

THE DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIE'S FOSTER CARE AND FAMILY PRESERVATION SERVICES PROVIDER SAINT FRANCIS COMMUNITY SERVICES, OFFERED NIKKI HOPE THAT SOMEDAY SOON SHE WOULD BE REUNITED WITH HER CHILDREN.

Mom: "ST. FRANCIS HELP A LOT BECAUSE I DIDN'T HAVE A LOT OF THE RESOURCES THAT I NEEDED WHEN THE KIDS WERE IN FOSTER CARE. SO THEY HELPED ME WITH COOKING CLASSES AND THINGS LIKE THAT, AND INFORMATION LIKE WHEN THEY HAVE BEHAVIORS WHAT KINDS OF THINGS I CAN DO TO HELP THEM GET THROUGH THEIR BEHAVIORS OR TO HELP ME GET THROUGH THEIR BEHAVIORS AND THINGS LIKE THAT."

ALTHOUGH HAVING HER CHILDREN REMOVED FROM HER CARE WAS HEART WRENCHING, SHE SAYS IT WAS A BLESSING IN DISGUISE.

Mom: GAVE ME A CHANCE TO GET A JOB AND BE STABLE AND FIND A PLACE TO LIVE AND FIND A CAR AND ALL OF THE THINGS I SHOULD HAVE DONE BEFORE I GOT PREGNANT. IT GAVE ME A CHANCE TO DO ALL OF THOSE THINGS AND I DID THEM, AND AS A RESULT I GOT MY KIDS BACK."

Mom: "HAVING A KID IN FOSTER CARE IS NOT THE END OF THE WORLD. IT'S EMBARRASSING, BUT I THINK IT WOULD BE MORE EMBARRASSING TO NOT GET THEM BACK, AND TO LEAVE THEM THERE. YOU CAN'T GIVE UP ON THEM, THEY'RE YOUR KIDS. THEY'RE NOT GOING TO GIVE UP ON YOU. SO JUST DON'T GIVE UP ON THEM."

SHE SAYS THANKS TO THE HELP SHE RECEIVED, SHE NOW KNOWS HOW TO COPE AND PUT HER CHILDREN FIRST.

Mom: "SO IT STILL JUST VERY OVERWHELMING SOMETIMES AND ALL I CAN DO IS JUST TAKE A BREATH AND GO ON, GO ON ABOUT MY DAY, BECAUSE JUST BECAUSE I AM HAVING A ROUGHT TIME, DOESN'T MEAN THAT THEY'RE GOING TO STOP AND BE LIKE, 'OKAY, LET'S SIT AND BE GOOD FOR A LITTLE BIT BECAUSE MOM'S OVERWHELMED.' THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN VERY OFTEN AT ALL."

SHE SAYS WHEN THINGS GET ROUGH, SHE KNOWS SOMETIMES THE KIDS NEED A TIMEOUT AND SO DOES SHE.

Mom: "WELL, WHENVER THEY GET ANGRY OR UPSET, I USUALLY HAVE THEM GO TO THEIR ROOM, AND WHEN THEY'RE DONE THEY CAN COME DOWN AND THEY CAN TAKE PART IN WHATEVER WE'RE DOING. IF WE'RE WATCHING T-V, THEY CAN COME BACK AND WATCH T-V, OR IF THEY'RE PLAYING A GAME, THEY CAN COME BACK AND PLAY THE GAME, OR IF THEY WERE PLAYING OUTSIDE, THEY CAN GO BACK OUTSIDE. AND IF I AM IRRITATED OR UPSET, I USUALLY GO OUTSIDE FOR A LITTLE BIT AND THEN COME BACK IN. THANK GOD FOR BABY MONITORS. "

NIKKI SAYS SHE'LL NEVER TAKE HER CHILDREN FOR GRANTED AGAIN.
AND SHE HAS HIGH HOPES FOR THEIR FUTURES.

Mom: "JUST LIKE EVERY OTHER PARENT, I HOPE THEY GO TO COLLEGE AND THEY FINISH THEIR EDUCATION, AND HAVE A FAMILY AND EVERYTHING LIKE THAT OF THEIR OWN. BUT FOR NOW, WE JUST DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO STAY HAPPY AND HEALTHY AND TO STAY TOGETHER."

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