

NewsRelease



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November is national adoption month

ROANOKE, VIRGINIA (NOV. 14, 2008) . . . Sonya said she knew the children were hers the first time she unbuckled them from their car seats. She and her husband, James, knew early on they wanted their foster children to be a permanent part of their family. "We never discussed it between us," said James. "When the time came, we knew what we had to do."

James and Sonya adopted two-year-old Tenaj, three-year-old Michael, and four-year-old Kaylyn in August. The sibling group had been in their foster care through Commonwealth Catholic Charities since 2005. The children exhibited evidence of neglect when they arrived at the couple's home. Kaylyn, accustomed to being the care-giver of her younger siblings, would cradle Tenaj and Michael in her arms and would ask if they would be able to eat at meals. James and Sonya work closely with therapists and CCC social workers and have seen strides in the children's development. Tenaj and Michael, quiet in the beginning, "now talk all the time," Sonya said.

Sonya and James have two biological teenage sons, and while the arrival of the three little ones created a different dynamic, they are a family. James and Sonya consider themselves blessed. "They just brought more joy to us," Sonya said. "People want to know the bad side to [foster parenting.] I don't see one." James said, "We always wanted daughters and knew we would not have any of our own. Now we have two."

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There are more than 300 foster children in the Roanoke area waiting to be adopted. For more information about CCC adoption and foster care in Roanoke, call 540-342-0411. In Richmond call 804-285-5900; in Norton call 276-679-1195. Visit the CCC website at www.cccofva.org.

Commonwealth Catholic Charities is a non-profit human service organization that assists all people, especially the most vulnerable regardless of faith.

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