



Family Building Blocks

“KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE AND FAMILIES TOGETHER”



Meet Kiri

“Are you going to feed me?”

That was one of the most heart-wrenching questions Kiri asked me when she was four years old. And that question completely broke my heart. My husband, Bob and I, were in the process of adopting Kiri. We were not able to have children of our own, and we opened up our hearts to this little girl. Her mother lost her battle with an addiction and had passed away.

The first three years of any child’s life are critical to lifelong success. Unfortunately, Kiri’s first three years were filled with insecurity and tragic experiences. Kiri’s mom was a single parent. Her addiction caused many struggles for her and for her children. Kiri was once found on the side of the road in her diaper. Because of these experiences Kiri had many anxieties and fears to overcome.

We count our blessings that when Kiri’s grandma saw her daughter overwhelmed as a parent, they voluntarily partnered with Family Building Blocks. Kiri’s grandma bravely said, **“We need help.” And Family Building Blocks responded.**

Kiri remembers feeling safe and happy walking into Chelsea’s Place, always greeted by friendly staff. At Family Building Blocks, Kiri was always offered healthy, delicious meals and learned that there “was always enough” food to go around. She remembers playing with slime, and other fun, sensory materials. Kiri’s teachers encouraged her development, creativity, and independence.

When Kiri first came to live with us, we were amazed what this four-year-old could do on her own. She cut her own nails, brushed her teeth, cleaned her plate in the sink. Family Building Blocks helped build her confidence. When I would offer to help, Kiri always proudly told me, **“I can do it myself.”**

When Kiri was having trouble sleeping, her teacher gave her a doll to take home and that doll became her constant companion, offering comfort and security. Today, Kiri is 19 years old and that same doll is one of her most treasured possessions.

This year, Kiri graduated with honors from high school and is attending college to become a nurse. She’s a strong and compassionate young woman. Her goal is to work in an under served community to help those who need it the most. **We adopted a child that, because of Family Building Blocks, was able to heal from her trauma. A child who developed the resilience to overcome her pain.**

If Kiri had the opportunity, she’d tell every child at Family Building Blocks, **“Always keep hope.”**

Bob and I are so very proud of Kiri. We hope you are proud of her too – she’s a success story because of your belief and investment in Family Building Blocks’ mission of “Keeping Children Safe and Families Together.” The work Family Building Blocks does, matters. **You matter.**

We know during this time of year you are especially concerned about children and families. Thank you for supporting the youngest among us. **Please give generously** to help another child’s life be as big and bright as Kiri’s.

Blessings and best wishes,

Venus and Bob

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Walla Walla, Washington

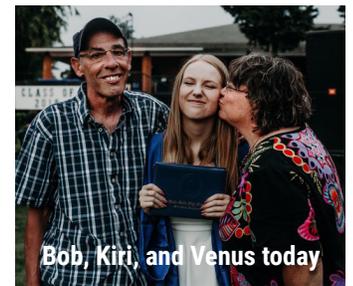
Visit us online to watch a powerful video of three-year-old Kiri at Family Building Blocks!



Learning to brush her teeth



Kiri and her dog Jasper



Bob, Kiri, and Venus today