



Dear Sophie

Ten years ago, through the power of adoption and the clear conviction and calling that we were to adopt you, our lives were changed.

You were adopted into our family the day before your 14th birthday—the day before you would have aged-out of the adoption process in China. As we got to know you more and more, we began to see some needs you had that we didn't expect.

I always assumed there was opportunity for anyone who worked hard, and while you did work hard at school, we saw basic education skills, like math and reading, were very difficult, and realized there would be fewer job opportunities for you in the future. We wanted to help meet some needs for you, and this motivated us to seek ways to help you grow and be successful. We started education at home and found the best tutors to help. We also wanted to protect your innocence, as your physical age did not match your cognitive age.



This article is a tribute to our charity of choice, Journey Found, as well as those who know, love, support, and contribute to special needs foundations.



Later, God gave us a job opportunity in Texas, and we moved. We didn't understand it, but knew it was the right thing. When we got there, we learned there was a privately-owned community about two hours from where we were living. It had been founded by a family in the 1960s, for those with intellectual disabilities. We were so excited to find a place for you to grow and thrive! And you are thriving.

Sophie, you are amazing and have a smile that is a gift to your world. You love working and serving others. You love to dress up, have your nails done, and participate in activities like Bingo and the Christmas play. You bring so much joy to everyone around you.

Your new home is a place where you learn many things, are loved, accepted, and protected. So many others have invested their time, money, and resources to make it exist. It is more than just walls and a roof—it's an investment from other people.

Sophie, I am so proud of all you are learning, and you are such a blessing to others. Keep working hard!

We cannot know what life would be like for you if you had not joined our family. What would be of your beautiful smile? We are so thankful for you and are grateful to the wonderful people who help you grow. You are free to be who you are, and are not measured by any other standard. We know God has a plan for you on this journey, and we can't wait to see it all unfold.

Love,
Dad



ABOUT TRENT RICHMOND

Trent Richmond is the co-founder of AgencyKPI in Austin, Texas and the father of Sophie, the subject of this article.

Trent and his family have been active participants in funding adoption opportunities and help for those less fortunate through their foundation, White Horse Family Foundation, a donor advised fund of The Signatry. It's through people like Trent and their foundations that organizations like Marbridge and the opportunity for Sophie are made possible. If you'd like more information on how to set up your own donor advised fund account contact The Signatry at info@thesignatry.com



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