

chapter 3: opening doors, creating forever



When Reena Magsarili Raasch and Will Raasch imagined their future together, they decided not to have biological children and to pour their energy into foster care, while being open to adoption in the journey. Long before becoming certified caregivers, they planned intentionally—right down to choosing a house with enough bedrooms to welcome future foster children.

Their search for the right partner led them to Five Acres, where knowledgeable staff and compassionate Resource Families made them feel surrounded by a true community. “Knowing we weren’t alone, and that we’d have a strong support network we could call on, made a big impact,” Reena shares. Training offered not only practical tools but also connection to other families who were candid about the realities of foster care.

Once certified, Reena and Will accepted placement of a premature newborn in the NICU. Two and a half years later, that tiny baby officially became their son. “It’s not how we imagined our journey would go!” they said. “We thought we’d have temporary placements, but we ended up with forever right away.”

Since then, the Raasch family has continued to open their home with open hearts. Their son’s biological younger brother is now living with them as a foster placement, and recently, they began fostering a teen girl as well.

“Every decision you make in foster care can be life-changing,” they observed. “We see Five Acres as our partner in this journey. It’s so helpful to have an agency that knows us so well. Through all the ups and downs, we know the staff are there to advocate on our behalf and for what the child needs.”

Families like the Raasches are vital in Five Acres’ mission to create safety, well-being, and permanency for every child. Their journey reminds us why our mission matters, opening doors and creating forever for those who need it most.

In the last year, 91% of children achieved permanency at discharge across all agency programs.

