



josh

danyelle

reena

seth

isabelle

lucy

"I love my mom's heart. She never gives up on people." -lucy-12

"I love all the weird little things Seth does." -isabelle-12

"I love when me and my sister wrestle. I always win." -seth-12

"I don't think there's anyone better than my family." -josh

"I love Issy's leadership." -danyelle

"I love it when we play games and watch movies together as a family. It really makes us feel united." -rebeka

"My family's belief in me has helped me have the courage and strength to make my dreams come true." -reena

"I love that all my kids are completely different, so unique." -lisa barnett-Mom

"Adopting kids is the best thing that ever happened to me." -jason barnett-Dad

linked IN love

by edwin diaz

As the sermon comes to an end at Blackhawk Indiana Community Church, world geography teacher Lisa Barnett and her husband Jason, listen to a woman's prayer request for four siblings in foster care. Lisa listens intently and feels the sympathy in the woman's voice. She says the children will soon be separated if no one adopts them. Her main concern is that of the four, two are intellectually disabled and need special care. The rest of the day, Lisa and Jason cannot get the children's story out of their minds.

"We knew God wanted us to adopt them," Lisa said. "We had such a great experience with Manny, our first adopted child."

The Barnetts already had Reena when Manny, from Romania, joined their family. Lisa gave birth to Isabelle, now a senior, but they wanted more children. Two miscarriages made that difficult.

"We arranged to meet Josh, Rebeka, Danyelle, and Seth at a McDonalds," Lisa said. "We brought our three children with us so they could all meet. They bonded right away. I met with their social worker, and she told me about their past. Their mother was also intellectually disabled. She put them up for adoption because she wanted the best for them. Nine months later, we had seven kids- Manny, Reena, Isabelle, Seth [a senior], Danyelle, Josh and Rebeka."

Raised in a Russian orphanage for 10 years, a teacher there tells Gilyana "Lucy" Barnett, and more than 20 other children, they have the chance to find a home. A 12-hour flight to Phoenix, Arizona, Lucy, 8 at the time, and the other children stepped off a plane and saw multiple families waiting to make them part of their lives.

"I had lived in the orphanage all my life," Lucy, now a senior, said. "I've never met my mother or my two older sisters. I've met my father, but I barely remember him. When we were told I might be adopted, I was thinking, 'It's about time'. We spent a couple days with each family. The Barnetts were the second family I stayed with. At the time, it didn't really sink in that this could potentially be my new family. Now, I can't think of a family better for me."



Pictures for Dad's promotion invitations-2004



our White Sands trip-2007



Christmas morning-2008