Actual Story you helped make possible last year

Tyler, a 31-year-old, hard-working man was highly respected by his bosses and coworkers. He worked two jobs to pay his bills and to help support his elderly, retired grandparents who were raising his younger sister Asia. When Tyler was 15 years old, his mother lost her life while giving birth to his sister, Asia. Tyler and Asia's maternal grandparents, Grandma Jean and Grandpa Mark, asked for and received full custody of Tyler and his sister whom they loved. Tyler and Asia's fathers were unknown, but their loving grandparents parented both Asia, who is now 16, and Tyler.

One Friday night last autumn, Tyler had just finished his late-night work shift at Amazon when he received a life-changing call from his sister Asia. Asia, hysterical and crying into the phone, told Tyler that she had returned home from hanging out with her friends to see their grandfather's house engulfed in flames. Tyler could hear the siren and chaos in the background of his sister's tearful phone call. He left work instantly, his heart aching with fear as he sped to his grandparents' home. When he arrived, he saw Asia on her knees crying and yelling out for their grandparents who had been asleep in their room and trapped by the fire. Tyler felt his world turning upside down as he watched his sister grappling onto the covered gurneys that held their grandparents. Tears streaming down his face, Tyler wrapped his arms tightly around his sister and held her as they watched their beloved grandparents who died in the fire be driven away.

While Tyler was devastated by the loss of both of his grandparents, he knew that this loss would have a lasting effect on his younger sister Asia. When they lost their mother, Tyler was 15 and Asia was a new born, and their grandparents were the only parents that Asia had. Their gentle and caring love raised her into a beautiful, smart young teen and Tyler knew that it was now up to him to continue to protect and raise Asia as his grandparents would have wanted him to do.

Tyler became Asia's legal guardian and moved her into his very small two-room apartment in a low-income neighborhood where violence and drugs surrounded them. He did not want his teeneger sister to be exposed to such an environment, but it was all that he could afford. Tyler gladly gave his only bedroom to Asia and slept on the couch every night. He remembered how tough it was for him when they lost their mother, so he understood what Asia was going through. He and Asia had a great relationship and he was happy that he was able to be there for her. Tyler often thought about how silently lonely he felt grieving the loss of their mother, not wanting to worry his grandparents, and he did not want Asia to ever feel that alone. He promised that he will always be there by her side.

But a few weeks into their new living arrangements, Tyler noticed that Asia was growing more and more silent. When he cooked, she barely ate and she began to refuse to go to school and she wouldn't leave her bedroom. Tyler was having a hard time finding ways to connect with her and help her during this sad time. Asia's grades began to fail and she was no longer involved in her two favorite school clubs. There were times when Tyler would come home from work and see Asia hanging out with older men and women who were known to cause trouble in their neighborhood. Tyler warned Asia about the dangers of hanging out with people in that crowd but she refused to listen. Each day Tyler felt Asia drifting further away from him, further away from reality. She completely dropped out of school and began drinking and using drugs and stopped coming home. Remembering the girl that she used to be, Tyler's heart ached for her and he couldn't help but think that her downfall must be his fault.

Watching his sister fall apart hurt Tyler more than he could bear. It pained him to see his sister hanging out in their neighborhood but he was happy to at least see her still alive. Tyler continued working two jobs and maintaining their apartment with the hope that Asia one day would choose to leave the street life and come back home.

One morning Tyler heard a knock on his door and to his surprise it was Asia. She had lost so much weight from doing drugs that he could barely recognize her. Asia, crying, asked Tyler for help. She had just been released from the hospital where she was treated for a drug overdose and they told her that she was pregnant. Tyler's chest sank, he was scared that he will fail her again. But he was determined to get her the help she needed. Tyler helped Asia get into a Rehabilitation Center that partners with The Children's Home Society of New Jersey for our birth parent counseling and adoption services when needed. One of our caring birth parent counselors met with Asia to discuss all of her options and ensure Asia was making the decision that was the very best for her and her unborn child. Asia decided she wanted an open adoption. She found comfort in the knowledge that she was assured the parents chose her photos and letters. She knew that being able to see photos of her baby growing would give her the strength to continue to straighten out.

In June 2020, Asia gave birth to a beautiful, healthy baby girl and she chose a wonderful CHS adoptive family with help from her CHSoNJ birth parent counselor. The adoptive family named the baby girl Lauren, and she is thriving with her adoptive parents. Lauren is healthy, always smiling, and a very active baby. And most importantly, she is loved. Asia continues to work through her struggles with addiction and Tyler continues to stay by his sister's side like he promised. Tyler and Asia have entered family counseling together, where they are learning healthier ways to communicate with each other and work through their traumas. They are both committed to rebuilding their closeness.

Our staff has been able to support Asia who has not been using drugs for the past year. She still struggles on some days but knows her brother is there to lend his hope and belief in her. Asia's baby's adoptive family is providing a wonderful life for her baby. CHSoNJ has over the past decades made a meaningful difference in the lives of thousands of babies and parents. These incredible outcomes are made possible with the help of caring donors like you. Your donation today will allow CHSoNJ to be there for one more baby or child and their loving birth parents and adoptive parents. Please partner with us in our mission: to save children's lives and build healthy families.

How to give

No donation is too small. Every dollar counts. Please complete the enclosed envelope and return it to the address below.
If you would prefer to donate online, visit www.chsofnj.org and click our Donate button.

www.chsofnj.org
635 South Clinton Avenue, Trenton NJ, 08611