



Testimonial: Kelly

Fall 2019

**OUR SHARED
VISION**

**Safe and
thriving
children and
youth**

**Empowered
families**

**Stronger
communities**

Kelly first met Serife on the day she was born. Now, 11 years later, Kelly is Serife's primary caregiver, and she wouldn't have it any other way!

Kelly has always been there for Serife, first as a friend to her mom, and then later as a support to Serife as her mom struggled to parent. Serife attended Kelly's family gatherings and slept over at her place. They developed a close bond.

So when Serife's mom was no longer able to be a parent to her, Kelly knew what she had to do. Even though she had chosen not to have children of her own, Kelly offered to be a kin caregiver for Serife. Kelly says, "Somehow I always thought that Serife and I would be together."

One of Kelly's main concerns was about the role that the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton would play in their lives. Kelly works with marginalized people, and had come to see CCAS as an adversarial organization. But her experience working with our staff has been completely positive. She praises her child protection worker and kinship worker, saying that they have been incredibly supportive and nurturing, and have kept their focus on what is really best for Serife. Kelly now recognizes the positive behind-the-scenes work that goes on here every day. (And yes, she asked us to tell you this!)

Kelly and Serife have adapted well to their new situation. They had to get used to their new roles in each other's lives, and the everyday nature of their new relationship. Kelly finds that her responsibility to Serife has helped her to make better life choices. We're so grateful that Serife had Kelly in her life all along, and that they now have a chance to build their lifelong relationship.

Catholic
Children's Aid Society
of Hamilton



Société d'aide à l'enfance
catholique
de Hamilton