

## DJ Finds a Forever Family

March 7, 2009. It was a beautiful sunny Saturday when we first met. You were dressed like a little old man in your khaki pants and white polo shirt and as you ran up the front steps of my house, your coat flew out behind you. Running past me you flung back the question, "You got any kids?" and you barely paused as I told you that I did not though your look told me that you were not happy with my answer.

Like the Tasmanian devil, you moved from room to room, inspecting and leaving your fingerprint on everything you could reach. You moved from object to object, not waiting for your last "What's this?" to be answered. The bright yellow tulips growing in a pot did not escape your fascination, nor did they survive your close inspection.

At dinner, you declared, "Maybe I could live here". I asked why you might want to live with me and your answer is etched in my mind and heart. "It smells fresh in here, and you have "those lights" (twinkle lights in a vase) and "this", holding up an oversized paper clip you had discovered earlier. For a child whose brief existence had been marked by neglect, abuse and multiple foster care placements, I knew this statement was an amazing offer of trust and gave me hope that you might eventually let me reach your heart.

That first evening you tried everything in your arsenal to convince me that you should be able to watch an inappropriate movie, including your preferred go to argument "I'm a grown man". When that proved unsuccessful, you tilted your head away from me and with crocodile tears in your eyes you quietly said that you hated me. I knew that you did not mean it and that you were using these words to gauge their effect on me. I couldn't suppress the smile that tugged at the corners of my mouth. That was the moment I knew I had fallen in love with you and we were going to be just fine!

Epilogue: After another weekend visit, 7 year old DJ came to stay with me and nine months later I finalized his adoption. DJ is still curious and loves to explore his environment, but he is also a loving and caring young man who wants to please whomever he meets.

***If you are considering adopting from foster care, please visit the [Adoption page](#) of our website for information about the process and how to get started.***

***For more inspirational stories or to find out more about becoming a foster parent, visit [www.fosteringtogether.org](http://www.fosteringtogether.org).***