

We Care
Services For Children

Dear We Care Family,

Emma is six. Last year, her wish for the holidays was a simple one – to feel safe in her own home.

Her parents had adopted three-year-old Lily, who had survived neglect and abuse in her first years of life, and had already experienced more pain than most of us will ever know.

Lily's anger, with screaming and hitting, could sometimes take over an entire evening. Dinner often ended in tears. Emma, who had been so excited to have a little sister, began hiding her favorite toys and sometimes even herself.

Her parents loved both girls and wanted desperately to help them. But they needed support themselves, so they turned to We Care.

Our clinicians worked with Lily to help her feel safe and begin trusting the people who loved her. Just as importantly, we worked with the entire family. Emma learned that her sister's anger wasn't her fault and that it was okay for Emma to feel scared. Her parents learned new ways to respond to the girls and help them both navigate what was happening.

It didn't happen overnight, but things began to change.

Emma stopped hiding her toys. The girls started playing together, and eventually, laughing together. One day, Emma reached for Lily's hand.

Today, they're sisters in every way that matters, squabbles included.

There are families like Emma's all around Contra Costa County. And we know that the sooner we're able to reach them, the greater the difference we can make.

This holiday season, I hope you'll consider making a gift to We Care. The generosity of our supporters makes it possible for us to reach children and families when they need us most, providing the support, skills, and hope that can change the course of a child's life.

Every gift makes a difference. Thank you so much for being part of this work, and for helping us give more children and families the opportunity for a better future.

With deepest gratitude and best wishes for the holidays,

Sincerely,

Pete

wecarechildren.org/donate-2