

A Birthmother's Story



Julie was a star athlete; she shined through high school academically, socially, and in sports. She then went off to college on an athletic scholarship. Unfortunately, for some, 'life happens', and after an injury and a difficult first year of college Julie returned to her hometown, 'to get her life together'. Tensions rose at home and Julie decided to move

in with some friends for a while. Then she found herself facing an untimely pregnancy. Julie knew that she was facing a crisis like none she had ever imagined would come her way. She was fiercely independent though, and for five months she struggled alone trying to determine what she would do. She wanted to - 'do the right thing'. When she eventually shared her situation with her parents and her boyfriend she found, they would support her emotionally as she prepared for the birth of her child. Julie's father was the one who helped her find Catholic Charities Pregnancy and Adoption Program. Initially, Julie was determined that her strong family values required her to be the very best parent she could be to her daughter. She planned to parent. Then, as she explored what values she would want to provide for her child - love, parents - a father and a mother, a home, opportunities, security, stability, resources, faith, . . . she realized she was not prepared to provide these core values - not yet. She began to understand that to love someone as much as she did her unborn child, you sometimes must make sacrifices. She began to explore the concept of open adoption. She developed an open adoption plan. With the support of her family, her boyfriend, and her friends she placed her beloved daughter into the arms of another carefully selected family.

Now, through an open relationship with that family, she has a loving relationship with her birth child and is able to realize all her hopes and dreams for her daughter - 'Talia'. Now, as Talia grows up secure in her adoptive family, Julie is finding her way back to 'getting her life together'. She is at peace with her decision, feels closer to her family, and is exploring a variety of career options for her future. Someday she and her boyfriend hope to be able to marry and have a family - she looks forward to a brighter future.

