



November 19, 2018

Dear Friends:

It was just another ridiculous argument about chores, but it resulted in a physical fight that changed everything. Morgan's school resource officer spotted bruising on his neck and arms and evidence of the fight with the cousin he was living with after Morgan failed to put his dishes in the sink. As soon as the questions started, Morgan knew he was going to go to another home, the 13th in his fifteen years.

You see, Morgan's father is serving time in prison out of state. That prison sentence ten years ago meant Morgan and his two younger siblings were placed in foster care for the first time. Mom got her act together and the family was reunited. She decided it was best to get a fresh start, moving to North Carolina where she had extended family support. Unfortunately for Morgan, that family influence introduced his mom to drugs. Not wanting to have to leave his family again, Morgan started taking on the responsibilities of the parent. He would care for his younger brother and sister as well as his mom. It was a full time job, meaning Morgan would stay out of school to make sure that everything was handled.

It was excessive school absences that got Morgan placed in foster care the second time. He became known as a runner, a foster care child with a tendency to run away from a foster family. The reality in Morgan's case is that he is always running to someone – either his siblings or his mother. It means a continuing series of placements as each foster family tried to reach him.

Morgan has tried to run twice since he came to our care six weeks ago – once to make sure his siblings were safe and once to try to get to his mom, who has fallen further into a life of addiction. When he was asked about it, Morgan admitted that he doesn't have to worry about his siblings anymore because he knows they are in a good Boys and Girls Homes' foster home. He knows for them that connection means a level of quality like he is experiencing on campus. He still worries about his mom, but he has started to realize that he needs to focus on himself right now.

Unfortunately, Morgan's story is not unusual among our children. These children have been forced to become responsible for their own care from a young age because of the abuse and

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neglect suffered at the hands of the people who are supposed to love them the most. We are seeing more and more drug addictions playing a role, and many times our children come to us addicted themselves because it was how they related to their parent.

Will you join us in providing a place of safety and belonging for these children to know they are able to learn and grow into adults instead of having to be the adult?

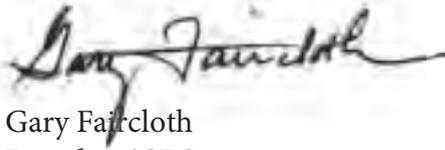
Will you help provide the \$54.91 per day to help children like Morgan find a stable place to learn and grow? This provides for the basics of food, clothing, and shelter. Of course, we also provide for necessities like spiritual development, education, vocational training, therapy, and medical care. These services are provided to both the children on campus and also those in the care of our foster parents.

In this season of giving, the needs of our children often become more intense. Christmas is a challenging time for our boys and girls. Please help me show them that they are loved and valued for the wonderful and uniquely gifted creations they are. Each child has a story, but each child has hope and great potential for a bright future with your help.

This Christmas, we want to give our children a real holiday. For some, like Morgan and his siblings, it will be the first Christmas they've celebrated in a place of safety and belonging. We want to give them a turkey dinner with all the trimmings and a church service with Christmas carols. Then we will share the story of the greatest gift ever, the birth of Jesus.

Please help us provide care for the most vulnerable children!

For the love of kids,



Gary Faircloth
President/CEO

P.S. – Consider providing your support through the 2018 #GivingTuesday #MakingFuturesBrighter campaign by donating online on Tuesday, November 27. Join the movement to provide brighter futures for children like Morgan.

**Names and some identifying details were changed to protect the identity of the family.*