



They deserve to be loved: Scott family of Lompoc honored for foster care service



Lompoc foster parents Charles and Kristen Scott were honored for their service as resource parents to 14 children Tuesday at the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors meeting.

Meant to provide a temporary safe haven and supportive family environment for children unable to live with their birth parents, the Santa Barbara County foster care system has more than 500 children. Many foster children have been neglected, or are victims of physical, emotional or sexual abuse.

The Scott family fostered their first child starting in October 2015 and has since fostered 14 children, one of whom — 3-year-old Sophia — already has been adopted.

On Tuesday, the Scott family was at the Joseph Centeno Betteravia Government Administration Building to accept a proclamation from the county Board of Supervisors declaring May to be National Foster Care Month. Sponsored by 2nd District Supervisor Janet Wolf, the proclamation is part of an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges children in the foster care system face.

“We’re so grateful for this honor,” Charles Scott said as he accepted the proclamation. “There are a lot of families like ours, who value these kids, so we stand in place of all of those families.” A corporal in the Lompoc Police Department, Scott said the broken homes he saw day-to-day at work inspired him to get involved.

“Being in law enforcement, I’ve seen it firsthand — the damage done to broken homes and these kids,” Scott said. “So my wife and I started praying about it and God just opened doors. It just made it clear that’s what we were supposed to do.”

Around nine months after the Scott family became a resource family with the Santa Barbara County Department of Social Services, their 15-year-old biological son Noah was diagnosed with leukemia. After fighting leukemia for a year, Noah died in June 2017.

While the Scotts received criticism for continuing to foster more children while Noah was ill, Scott said he and his wife did not waver in their choice.

“Losing Noah was hard and we got a lot of criticism from our family for bringing kids in while Noah was sick,” Scott said. “So we asked Noah if he wanted us to take a break. He said, ‘No.’ He said that’s what he looks forward to.”

In addition to their foster and adopted children, the Scotts have two biological children. To share updates on Noah’s condition, the family started a Facebook page, which garnered widespread support from the community and eventually grew to around 7,000 members.

After their son’s death, the Scotts formed a nonprofit — Team Noah — which grew out of their Facebook page. Since Team Noah became a nonprofit organization, the Scotts have organized golf and baseball tournaments as fundraisers, using the proceeds to continue their work with foster children.

In November, they took 11 foster children and their caregivers to Disneyland for the first of what will be an annual trip in a partnership with the county Department of Social Services.

First District Supervisor Das Williams said he was moved by the Scott family’s work. “I just want to say, for my part, that you cut me to the heart,” Williams said. “Your family exemplifies to me what heroism is, and that love is not finite.”

The Scotts appeared at the government building Tuesday with their sons Jordan, 14, and Zachary, 12, along with their adopted daughter Sophia, 3, and foster son Asher, 1.

Born unassisted in an alley, Asher has been fostered by the Scotts since he was two days old, and the Scotts are in the process of adopting him.

“He’s really been a lifesaver for our family after losing Noah,” Scott said. “He’s a miracle baby.” Scott said his goal was to give back to the county’s foster children in whatever way he could.

“They deserve to live in a home where they have every opportunity to thrive — it’s not their fault they find themselves in these conditions,” Scott said. “They deserve to be loved. So that’s what our family is going to do — continue to love on these broken kids, try to make them as whole as they can be. Because they deserve it.”

To learn more about becoming a resource family with the Santa Barbara County Department of Social Services visit ourcountyourkids.org or call 899-2649.

https://santamariatimes.com/news/local/they-deserve-to-be-loved-scott-family-of-lompoc-honored/article_6c04dcb4-f1bf-5490-a3b7-a216ae1d9cba.html