

## Abused children can't wait

After a lengthy search, a potential adoptive home was found a plane ride away. The adoptive parents flew to Texas to meet the foursome and afterward continued to build the relationship through Face Time. After another visit to Texas, the adoptive parents were ready for the kids to come home.

CASA volunteer Lisa said she knew it was a match from the first visit.

"They were immediately a family," Lisa said. "I could tell their adoptive mother had decided she was their mother before she'd even met them."

The week before Christmas the kids were ready to move to their new family. They boarded a plane with their CPS caseworker and their Dallas CASA volunteer as escorts to ease the transition. When the children arrived at their new home, their parents had everything ready. There was a stuffed animal on each child's bed and new clothes in all their closets. Dresser drawers were marked with what went in each drawer and there was even a basket of hair bows for their new daughter.

The parents introduced the children to the structure they needed, with daily age-appropriate chores, regular mealtimes, weekly meetings with therapists and lots of academic help at home from their adoptive mother, a former elementary school teacher.

Additionally, the foursome gained two new teenage brothers who have spent hours playing backyard soccer and basketball with their new little siblings.

There have been difficulties while transitioning into their new home. The oldest boy takes food from others at school and the second boy has taken things from stores without paying for them. The girl initially had tantrums of almost an hour. But with the help of a therapist and teachers, the parents put together new strategies and structure to help the children adjust.

"The best thing we did for these kids was that we kept them together during it all," their advocate Lisa said. "There is no reason to expect they can't have very bright futures."

Next week, the kids will start first grade, kindergarten, Pre-K and preschool. They have each other, but they also have so much more now.

