1

00:00:02,880 --> 00:00:05,360

Me and Abe get along really well.

2

00:00:05,360 --> 00:00:07,000

We don't fight.

3

00:00:07,000 --> 00:00:10,960

We have a really good, friendly relationship with each other.

4

00:00:10,960 --> 00:00:14,040

Hi, I’m Campbell, I’m 23 years old.

5

00:00:14,040 --> 00:00:17,120

I’m Abraham, I’m 26.

6

00:00:17,120 --> 00:00:19,000

We’re best mates.

7

00:00:19,000 --> 00:00:21,720

We chose to live together.

8

00:00:24,480 --> 00:00:29,720

Abraham came to us at nine weeks old as just a temporary

9

00:00:29,720 --> 00:00:32,720

placement as his mum had some issues

10

00:00:32,720 --> 00:00:34,600

she needed to deal with.

11

00:00:34,600 --> 00:00:38,240

So we ended up with Abraham long term.

12

00:00:38,240 --> 00:00:47,040

Joined the Evetts family on Friday 14th March 1997.

13

00:00:47,760 --> 00:00:51,120

Once he hit puberty I think that's when stuff really

14

00:00:51,120 --> 00:00:54,200

started to go awry.

15

00:00:54,200 --> 00:00:57,200

And because he hasn't just got Down Syndrome,

16

00:00:57,200 --> 00:01:01,400

he also has what I believe would be fetal alcohol syndrome

17

00:01:01,400 --> 00:01:05,360

and also autistic tendencies.

18

00:01:05,360 --> 00:01:10,000

So that just kind of adds a big whirlpool to the mix.

19

00:01:10,000 --> 00:01:15,480

I accepted my responsibility as a step dad.

20

00:01:15,480 --> 00:01:21,480

He's a good kid, but certain of his behaviours were very difficult.

21

00:01:21,480 --> 00:01:25,400

You know, he had attacked me a number of times.

22

00:01:25,400 --> 00:01:28,400

But when the police suggested that we put him through the

23

00:01:28,400 --> 00:01:32,040

courts, we found that very, very difficult.

24

00:01:32,040 --> 00:01:35,040

In hindsight, it was the right move.

25

00:01:35,040 --> 00:01:40,000

The sergeant said, this way he's going to get care.

26

00:01:40,000 --> 00:01:41,280

And he has.

27

00:01:41,280 --> 00:01:44,440

He's had the help, which has been really, really amazing.

28

00:01:45,200 --> 00:01:46,400

You're a fighter aye?

29

00:01:46,400 --> 00:01:50,000

So you think you're going to do a lot of fighting to become

30

00:01:50,000 --> 00:01:51,440

independent as well.

31

00:01:51,440 --> 00:01:52,000

Yep.

32

00:01:52,000 --> 00:01:53,400

So we are very proud of you.

33

00:01:53,400 --> 00:01:54,400

We are, yeah.

34

00:01:55,800 --> 00:01:58,800

We have had Campbell since he was

35

00:01:58,800 --> 00:02:00,360

six months old.

36

00:02:00,360 --> 00:02:04,480

So he is actually biologically my little cousin.

37

00:02:04,480 --> 00:02:08,600

Me and Campbell, when he was growing up, definitely didn't see

38

00:02:08,600 --> 00:02:09,760

eye to eye.

39

00:02:09,760 --> 00:02:15,760

Hanging around with the wrong crowd, drinking, smoking

40

00:02:15,760 --> 00:02:23,560

cigarettes, substances, not knowing anything really for himself,

41

00:02:23,560 --> 00:02:25,840

how to deal with life.

42

00:02:26,840 --> 00:02:32,080

I have oppositional defiance disorder, so it’s a learning disability

43

00:02:32,080 --> 00:02:36,240

as well as anger problems.

44

00:02:36,240 --> 00:02:38,920

I didn't used to like the word no.

45

00:02:38,920 --> 00:02:43,880

I got in trouble with the law and I went into Ward 21 in

46

00:02:43,880 --> 00:02:49,840

Palmerston North and then I ended up from Ward 21 into jail.

47

00:02:49,840 --> 00:02:52,840

That was really, really scary, as was Ward 21.

48

00:02:52,840 --> 00:02:55,120

I just wanted to go home.

49

00:02:56,640 --> 00:03:00,280

I've been involved with Abe and Campbell over a two year period.

50

00:03:00,280 --> 00:03:05,520

They met in a locked up environment, but they have got to know

51

00:03:05,520 --> 00:03:07,000

each other as people.

52

00:03:07,000 --> 00:03:08,360

They’ve become friends.

53

00:03:09,760 --> 00:03:12,040

So this is your home.

54

00:03:12,040 --> 00:03:13,720

You both want to live here together.

55

00:03:13,720 --> 00:03:16,080

You've been here one month in your own home.

56

00:03:16,080 --> 00:03:17,280

How’s that?

57

00:03:17,280 --> 00:03:17,680

Has it been good?

58

00:03:17,680 --> 00:03:18,160

Yeah.

59

00:03:18,640 --> 00:03:21,040

We've determined that they want to

60

00:03:21,040 --> 00:03:21,680

go flatting.

61

00:03:21,680 --> 00:03:26,400

And it's taken nearly two years to find a place for them to live

62

00:03:26,400 --> 00:03:32,520

that they both liked, find some support that could help transition

63

00:03:32,520 --> 00:03:35,200

them from a really locked up environment to something in the

64

00:03:35,200 --> 00:03:38,200

community where they could actually both have a key to their

65

00:03:38,200 --> 00:03:39,200

own home.

66

00:03:40,240 --> 00:03:44,480

This is our set of keys for the house,

67

00:03:44,480 --> 00:03:47,760

for the front and back door.

68

00:03:47,760 --> 00:03:50,400

It's a really nice three bedroom home.

69

00:03:50,400 --> 00:03:52,040

They are very proud of it.

70

00:03:52,040 --> 00:03:54,680

They do everything in it and outside of it themselves.

71

00:03:54,680 --> 00:03:56,520

They're quite independent.

72

00:03:57,040 --> 00:04:01,920

When I got told I was moving out, I was like to myself,

73

00:04:01,920 --> 00:04:03,640

I didn't believe it.

74

00:04:03,640 --> 00:04:07,360

I didn't believe that I could see this day.

75

00:04:08,560 --> 00:04:13,960

In the morning we wake up, have a coffee first,

76

00:04:13,960 --> 00:04:17,560

and come out here and join the sun.

77

00:04:17,560 --> 00:04:23,640

We’ve been discussing the yard, make the back area a potting

78

00:04:23,640 --> 00:04:27,240

house and grow some plants.

79

00:04:28,200 --> 00:04:32,480

I learned that I am a better person.

80

00:04:32,480 --> 00:04:35,480

I learned to respect people.

81

00:04:35,480 --> 00:04:42,200

I learned how to respect myself and others.

82

00:04:42,200 --> 00:04:44,640

Hey, where are you at with the license mate?

83

00:04:44,640 --> 00:04:46,080

Yeah, getting there.

84

00:04:46,080 --> 00:04:47,280

So you don't have to borrow my car aye?

85

00:04:47,280 --> 00:04:49,480

Yeah.

86

00:04:49,480 --> 00:04:51,240

Don’t know about that mate.

87

00:04:52,480 --> 00:04:55,280

I think Campbell’s worth getting to know.

88

00:04:55,280 --> 00:04:57,680

And I think one thing Campbell's always lacked is

89

00:04:57,680 --> 00:04:59,200

long term relationships.

90

00:04:59,200 --> 00:05:01,200

Just a phone call, just a how are we doing?

91

00:05:01,200 --> 00:05:01,960

What's going on?

92

00:05:01,960 --> 00:05:03,320

Tell me your stories.

93

00:05:03,320 --> 00:05:04,880

So ultimately I’m an ear.

94

00:05:04,880 --> 00:05:06,680

I’m an ear and available for him.

95

00:05:07,960 --> 00:05:08,960

So you buckled your wheel buddy?

96

00:05:08,960 --> 00:05:09,320

Yeah.

97

00:05:09,320 --> 00:05:10,440

How’d you fix it man?

98

00:05:10,440 --> 00:05:13,320

So I pulled a wheel off another bike.

99

00:05:13,320 --> 00:05:15,040

He's always had a thing about wheels.

100

00:05:15,040 --> 00:05:17,160

And so one of his ways of independence was

101

00:05:17,160 --> 00:05:18,520

getting a bike.

102

00:05:18,520 --> 00:05:20,000

If I can get a bike, I don't have to rely on people

103

00:05:20,000 --> 00:05:22,040

to get from A to B.

104

00:05:22,040 --> 00:05:23,880

So we got him a bike, we got it all fixed up for him

105

00:05:23,880 --> 00:05:26,000

and he's been repairing it and putting wheels on and

106

00:05:26,000 --> 00:05:26,920

doing all sorts of things.

107

00:05:29,760 --> 00:05:31,040

What are we going to do tonight?

108

00:05:31,040 --> 00:05:33,400

Are we going to get some meat?

109

00:05:33,400 --> 00:05:33,920

What do you want?

110

00:05:33,920 --> 00:05:34,840

Sausages?

111

00:05:34,840 --> 00:05:35,480

Yeah.

112

00:05:36,560 --> 00:05:39,080

We talked about what their real goals were.

113

00:05:39,080 --> 00:05:40,760

What was their hope and vision

114

00:05:40,760 --> 00:05:41,720

for the future?

115

00:05:41,720 --> 00:05:43,800

They both want to get a driver's license and both

116

00:05:43,800 --> 00:05:45,240

want to get jobs.

117

00:05:45,240 --> 00:05:47,480

So I think the biggest change is the fact that they

118

00:05:47,480 --> 00:05:49,800

have ideas and they actually believe that they

119

00:05:49,800 --> 00:05:50,920

can achieve them.

120

00:05:52,200 --> 00:05:55,800

My main hope as a mum would be for him to be as independent

121

00:05:55,800 --> 00:06:00,480

as possible, reaching any goals and dreams, getting out into the

122

00:06:00,480 --> 00:06:04,600

community more and making more friends that way.

123

00:06:05,720 --> 00:06:08,920

I’ve written a brother to brother quote.

124

00:06:08,920 --> 00:06:15,280

Sometimes an enemy, sometimes a friend.

125

00:06:15,280 --> 00:06:21,960

But no matter the distance, time or issues, I'll always be there for

126

00:06:21,960 --> 00:06:23,080

you my little brother.

127

00:06:23,080 --> 00:06:24,560

Love you, brother.

128

00:06:27,160 --> 00:06:30,160

Do the best you can to your abilities.

129

00:06:30,160 --> 00:06:35,360

Make sure you do the right thing and stay safe and be good.

130

00:06:35,360 --> 00:06:38,920

And Kia Kaha. Stay strong.