



In a job where success stories can be overshadowed by challenges, the New Britain Office; along with the Wendy's Wonderful Kids program and the Nelson family, would like for all of us to know positive things do happen when we all work together!

Friday, August 31, 2018 is a day to be remembered as one of the most successful days in the life of a young lady named Elizabeth. After experiencing the loss of her biological family, as well as her former adoptive family, Elizabeth; who was just months shy of her 13<sup>th</sup> birthday, needed someone to take a chance on her and reaffirm she was deserving of a permanent and loving family. She joined the Nelson family in 2016 and she and her mom, Tracey, weathered the storm which accompanies the budding adolescent years. Add some layers of grief, loss and trauma to the mix, and you can well imagine the ups and downs of parenthood; and the worry Tracey felt in doubting her ability to be the perfect "forever" parent for Elizabeth.

Tracey and Elizabeth had already formed an emotional relationship; and the next step was to discuss the finality

of sanctioning the relationship legally, through adoption. But how could this one instance be successful, when so many other times there are failures?

Enter the Wendy's Wonderful Kids program and their motto "Unadoptable is Unacceptable!" Klingberg's WWK Permanency Specialist Bill Larson and Elizabeth's social worker, Margaret Desena worked together with Tracey to help her see she already **was** Elizabeth's mom in the most important of ways; in her heart and in her mind. They helped her understand every child deserves to have an *individual* as a parent; not an *agency*. While working with Tracey, they also helped Elizabeth recognize she deserved to have a loving family by her side, sharing with her in all the joys and challenges of growing up, well into adulthood.



After two years of pushing through and breaking down any barriers, the Nelson family grew by one new member; and Elizabeth was adopted!

You can see in the photo Elizabeth is surrounded by her "team" on her adoption day. Helping her to celebrate, in addition to Margaret and Bill, is Shasterin; another of Elizabeth's supports from the Wheeler TFC program. The second photo is a picture of the engraved bracelet Bill gave as a gift to both Tracy and Elizabeth.

Let's give a shout out to Elizabeth's team; SW Margaret Desena, SWS Kim Koeppen and Klingberg's WWK Permanency Specialist, Bill Larson for remaining committed and hopeful that adoption was possible for this young lady!!