

## Quintin's Story



In the year 2003, our beautiful son, Quintin, was born to us through adoption. We brought him home at just three tender days of age, and from the very moment we laid eyes on him, our fate was sealed; he made us a family, and love prevailed. Outwardly, he was perfect. Ten fingers, ten toes, a head full of beautiful hair and gorgeous brown eyes. However, as Quintin grew, we noticed developmental things that were simply not right.

For example, at age 2 ½, he had not spoken a word. His activity level was extremely high, making him constantly susceptible to injury, and to make matters worse, he seemed to feel little to no pain when injured; most certainly a dangerous combination. Additionally, as he grew into his post-toddler years, we also began to realize that he had stranger anxiety, no concept of cause/effect, and aggression issues.

We later learned that his birthmother, Julia, consumed alcohol while pregnant, and because of her actions, Quintin was born with an illness called Fetal Alcohol Affect (FAE), which is a form of brain damage.

It has been said that love can move mountains, yet even our love cannot move our small child to be safe in his world. We are constantly looking for ways to help Quintin make the connection between his body and mind including help from doctors, teachers, our church, and many forms of ongoing therapy. **However, of all the things we do to help our son, therapy horseback riding has changed his world the most.**



Quintin began riding for therapy at Freedomfarm when he was 3 ½ years old. At the time, he did not speak, was not potty trained, and had to be physically restrained if he needed to be still or kept safe. However, the very moment he sat on his horse, **Rocky**, we watched his body and mind connect for the first time ever! Of all the words we have spoken to our son to try and help him understand, it was the unspoken words of an animal that found its way to our son.

**Freedomfarm has changed Quintin's world, and has given us hope!**

We believe the children are our future, including our son. Love knows no boundaries, including the love of a child and his horse. Angels are everywhere, in fact, some have hoofs! We could never repay Freedomfarm for what they have given to us....they have given us HOPE and sight for the future for one little boy, who happens to find the connection between his body and mind neither by human words nor actions, but through the love of his horse.



Kind Regards,

Quintin's mommy, Jeanie