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Family Reunited After Many Years!



WYANDOTTE, MI. – February 13, 2007 – You can definitely tell they're related! Brothers Greg and Bronson and sister Teresa sometimes finish each other's sentences and seem to anticipate each other moves, they look so alike they could be mistaken as triplets. But the best part of their relationship, the three of them are finally back together after being separated for years.

"After my divorce from their father, the children (all have developmental disabilities) were placed in separate group homes," said mom Debbie. "It took years to get them all back together again and now, we are together most of the time."

Working through the human service system is a challenge for anyone, but trying to get all three of your children out of group homes and under one roof, at times, seemed impossible. "I had many sleepless nights wondering if they were safe. But now my prayers have been answered. I am re-married and after years of struggling and endless paperwork, we're all together."

Greg, the oldest, lives in an apartment in Southgate. He's pretty independent and he wanted to have his own place. He lives just a few miles down the road and likes to visit his family.

Debbie's other two children, Bronson and Teresa live in their home on the lower level. "We live upstairs and they live downstairs," said Debbie. "They get along very well and they have their own space. Teresa, 35, thinks she's the boss and her brother lets her think that most of the time! She likes to decorate and bake for us. Bronson, 33, is a very happy guy and he loves to be around people and make them laugh. We get together a few nights a week, have dinner and play games. We're all very close now."

The Cousins enjoy spending time together at their Northern Michigan cottage and in the summer, they all go to Greg's place to swim in the pool.

After moving what felt like mountains for many years, trying to navigate an often confusing system, does Debbie have any advice for parents who may be in the same position? Keep trying and never give up. There are people you will come in contact with that will always help you along the way. In the end, your children and you will be much happier.

The Cousins children utilize the services and supports of Community Living Services. CLS is a non-profit organization that promotes inclusion, full citizenship and a self-determined life for people with developmental

disabilities. CLS provides supports and services to 2500 people in Wayne County and is funded through the Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency.

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